



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY		
COUNCIL OWNED COMMUNITY HALLS POLICY	Policy No:	
	Adopted by Council:	11 March 2010 July 2020
	Next review date:	
Senior Manager:	Director Infrastructure, Development & Works	
Responsible Officer:	Assets & GIS Coordinator	
Functional Area:	Infrastructure, Development & Works	
Introduction & Background	The West Wimmera Shire Council’s community halls are located throughout the council, and are catering for a range of activities and services for the various community areas.	
	These Council Owned community halls serve as an important focal point for the local communities, and the range of activities and services utilising this group of halls varies from one community to another.	
	The West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to promoting community development within the Shire, and consequently, is committed to encouraging community participation and self-help in service provision.	
	The West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to promoting community development, self-help in service provision, and improving opportunities for community participation within the Shire.	
	To this extent, Council provides a number of Council Owned Community Halls to encourage and facilitate the provision of services, where such services and facilities help Council meet its goals and objectives.	
	To this extent, Council provides, maintains and operates a number of Council Owned Community Halls to encourage community participation and facilitate the provision of services, in accordance with Council’s strategic objectives.	
Purpose & Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To ensure that Council Owned community halls, which have significant strategic importance in community development and service provision, continue to operate for the benefit of the community.	



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that an equitable level of support to the community hall Committees of Management. To establish clear delegations, Terms of Reference, schedules of roles and responsibilities for hall committees, Community Asset Committees, in accordance with legislative and statutory responsibilities, Section 65 Local Government Act 2020, and other relevant legislation and Standards.
Scope	<p>This Community Owned Halls Policy applies to the following Halls, listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apsley Town Hall - Charam Hall [Note: In the process of being Transferred to Charam Community Club] - Douglas Hall - Edenhope and District Community Centre - Gymbowen Community Hall - Kaniva Shire Hall - Nurcoungh Memorial Hall - Miga Lake Hall [For Sale/ Transfer]
Other Policies	<p>Other Council Policies which specifically affect Council Owned Halls includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asset Management Policy - Asset Disposal Policy - Major Halls Policy <p>Any decision with respect to the development, maintenance or operation of the Council Owned Halls must consider the requirements of these above listed Policies.</p>
Policy Details	
1.	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>Council will maintain Council Owned halls to the extent that they are to be fit for purpose at all times.</p> <p>Council will be informed by regular Building Assets Condition Assessments, which will include a Condition Report for each Building Asset with recommended intervention and maintenance action levels.</p>
2.	<p>Utilisation</p>



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

	Council will as a priority, promote and utilise Council Owned Halls for meetings, services and events.
3.	Insurance
	Council will insure its Council Owned Hall Assets to the full replacement value. Council will maintain Public Liability Insurance for the subject Council Owned Halls.
4.	Advertising and Marketing Support
	Council will provide advertising/marketing support, as appropriate, for community halls to encourage usage to promote the use of its Halls
5.	Policy Review period.
	This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, and then within 12 months of any Local Government election of a new Council, or more frequently as required by legislative changes or changes in circumstances.

Policy Adopted:	Ordinary Meeting 25/11/99	Minute Book Page 6906	
Policy Reviewed:	Ordinary Meeting 05/06/03	Minute Book Page 11175	
	Ordinary Meeting 06/04/06	Minute Book Page 13682	
	Ordinary Meeting 11/03/10	Minute Book Page 17759	
	Ordinary Meeting July 2020 - TBC		



Strategic Review of Halls 2014



Prepared for
West Wimmera Shire
CM0392 - June 2014



West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Table of Contents

Executive Summary:	5
Introduction:.....	7
Purpose of the Project:.....	7
Strategic Context:	7
Methodology:	8
Demographics of West Wimmera Shire	9
Overview of West Wimmera Community Halls.....	10
Council's Current policy and role relating to Community Halls:	11
Location of West Wimmera Shire Community Halls	12
Grouping of halls	13
Issues - General:	15
Issues of individual halls	16
The Future:	20
Options and Recommendations	21
Option 1: Status Quo	21
Option 2: Managed portfolio.....	21
Option 3: Council Control over all Halls.....	22
Portfolio Strategies:.....	23
Organisational Strategies	23
Business Development Strategies:	23
Community strengthening strategies:.....	23
Hall Group and individual Hall recommendations:	25
GROUP A HALLS	25
GROUP B and C HALLS:	26
GROUP D HALLS.....	29
GROUP E HALLS	29
Funding opportunities	30
Appendix 1. Halls at a glance	31
Appendix 2. Community Engagement session – Edenhope Hall Insight Night	57

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Executive Summary:

In an effort to better understand the Community Halls throughout West Wimmera Shire, and to enable Council to better plan for the future, Council has commissioned Sena Solutions to provide a Strategic Review of Halls in the West Wimmera Shire.

Findings from this project and the options and subsequent recommendations made are based on reviews of Council documents, desktop research, interviews with Council Staff and Elected Members, representatives of other Government Agencies and most importantly an extensive community engagement with hall Committees and community members.

There were a number of themes that emerged from engaging with the various stakeholder groups. These Community Halls are more than just bricks and mortar – in many cases they are the only space that keeps the fabric of a community together. They enable the development of strong communities by providing a venue for activities that bring people together and provide them with the options for a rich community life. These places are also the gathering point in case of emergency or when a community needs to face loss and hardship together. Halls have been reviewed using four contexts to give a broader perspective; social, conditional, operational and financial.

Many of these halls exist because of the efforts of the hall communities. We have been astounded by the efforts volunteers of these communities go to that enable their Halls to exist and to continue to provide this important infrastructure. Chopping and selling fire wood, cropping, delivering community events, working bees, so many community sausage sizzles and of course community donations are only some of the ways these communities work to cover operational and maintenance costs and keep their halls alive.

There is no doubt that the ownership of Community Halls is secondary to their function. Varying ownerships, a variety of forms of Committees of Management, Council policies that have morphed over the last fifteen years and a lack of communication and information have resulted in confusion in relation to roles and responsibilities, insurances, cost reimbursement, and opportunities not only for the Hall Committees but also for Council and the West Wimmera Shire Council Staff.

There is money being spent on Community Halls, however this is ad hoc with no way to establish accurate spend or cost to Council of this group of buildings; there have been incidents of insurances being paid twice or reimbursed when already covered by policies provided by the DEPI.

Council has expressed a desire to recognise the vital role of community halls and move to a more consistent and supportive approach to managing these halls, and to support communities by facilitating any changes to hall status on behalf of the communities. The Elected members also seek an introduction of clear guidelines and support services for these committees.

We have provided three options for Councils consideration:

The options (detailed on page 21) are:

1. Option 1 - Maintain the status quo
2. Option 2 – Introduce a Managed Portfolio of Community Halls which facilitates asset management, supports organisational issues, assists with business development and delivers community strengthening strategies regardless of ownership
3. Option 3 – Council become the Committee of Management for all Halls which take on the responsibility of asset management, operation, maintenance and improvement of all halls.

We believe that Option 2 delivers the best outcomes for Council and for the Hall Communities. The recommendations that are proposed in this review work to address these outcomes in line with Council plans, and are broken down into four strategic areas; portfolio, organisational, business development and community strengthening strategies. The recommendations address the processes that will be needed to provide the support and management of the Community Halls portfolio.

From our investigations it has become apparent that there are a number of halls that need to be re assessed. The Edenhope Mechanics Hall needs serious consideration for renewal due to structural and functional issues; the community feedback is that it is no longer fit for purpose and a broader, multi purpose community centre would greatly benefit the community by bringing groups together, sharing resources, providing spaces for meetings, training and education, rationalising some of the older buildings in use and uniting the community with a focus point. There are a number of halls that we recommend to be decommissioned due to dereliction or are no longer supported by a community; Dinyarrak, Miga Lake and Ullswater and there are a few Community Halls that need to be monitored with the possibility of decommissioning or facilitating the Committee to disband depending on the next two years of operations, mainly due to ageing and declining populations in these communities. These halls include Gymbowen, Peronne and Dorodong. On the whole, most of the Halls that are the nucleus of small communities are in good condition – again through the efforts of hall committees and their volunteers.

With the development of a clear strategy and council policies and processes, West Wimmera Shire will move to more consistently support the maintenance and operations of Community Halls, regardless of ownership and confirm it's commitment to building strong communities and its vision that "West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer".



Ev and Steve Ord
Sena Solutions

Introduction:

Purpose of the Project:

There are 24 community halls throughout West Wimmera Shire. These halls have varying ownership, conditions and uses. The purpose of the Strategic Review of Halls in the West Wimmera Shire is to provide Council and the communities Council represents with information and data regarding service provision by halls, usage, community service needs and a comprehensive understanding of the operation and management of public halls within the West Wimmera Shire. This project also serves to provide Council with options and recommendations to enable the sustainable management of these halls for the next five to ten years and beyond, and provide the future strategic direction of these Halls.

Strategic Context:

This project is linked in many ways to West Wimmera Shires Council Plan and reflects the current vision that *“West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer”*.

Through its Council Plan, West Wimmera Shire seeks to

- Provide an attractive community for local residents
- Increase community amenity - protect unique values of our rural communities:
- Provide an attractive community for local residents
- Protect natural amenity within townships
- Provide opportunities for engagement of Council by the community
- Support the significant volunteer contribution to the amenity and services in the community
- Enable Council to discuss changes to services with the community and other agencies

Themes from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan are reflected in West Wimmera Shire’s council plan including “a healthy and resilient environment” and “community well being”.

The Strategic Review of Halls addresses a number of the key objectives that the Council and the West Wimmera community have identified as priorities.

“Council planning for service delivery to its communities is focused on balancing the needs of the community with the availability of funds derived from government grants and the rate base. Council is committed to investigating innovative ways to maintain infrastructure and assets, to provide the range of services necessary to ensure community well-being, and provide opportunities for economic and community development”. (WWSC Plan 2013-2018)

Methodology:

To provide a Strategic Review of Halls that is true to Council Plan and provides real life options for Council consideration, Sena Solutions have engaged with all operating Public Hall management groups, members of the community, representatives from West Wimmera Shire Staff and Elected Members, and Representatives from State Government agencies (DEPI and RDV). Desk top research as well as communication with other Shires has provided relevant information about understanding Crown Land Reserve, alternative models of management and operation and possible funding opportunities.

When reviewing the Halls and identifying options, Sena Solutions looked at four contexts for each hall so that we can relay a well rounded and more informative review. These contexts are:

- Social context – what the hall means to the community and how the hall serves the community
- Financial context – management of costs, funding for maintenance and future works
- Physical Context – condition and location / demographic and geographic implications
- Operational context – management arrangements, booking systems, promotion etc. and the ability of the community to continue these functions

We have outlined the options that need to be considered for the future management of the Community Halls. We have used the information gathered from all the research and engagement sessions done and have developed strategic recommendations which are grouped into four areas:

- Portfolio strategies
- Organisational strategies
- Business development strategies
- Community strengthening strategies

And a number of Hall Group and Individual Hall recommendations that support the recommended option.

This forms the draft plan for the next 10 years to improve the outcomes achieved through the Community Halls in West Wimmera Shire.

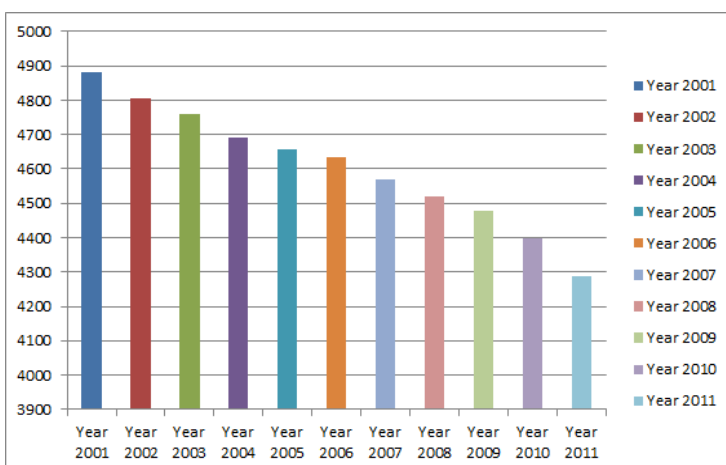
Demographics of West Wimmera Shire

Located four hundred kilometres west of Melbourne on the South Australian border, West Wimmera Shire offers a unique rural lifestyle for its residents. The municipality encompasses 9,108 square kilometres, including sections of the Little Desert National Park and Big Desert National Park, as well as over two thousand natural wetlands. The natural diversity of flora and fauna of the municipality is valued by locals and visitors alike.

The main economic driver of the municipality is agriculture, including broad acre grain, intensive animal, seed, sheep and wool production, as well as olive and timber. Agricultural businesses range from international corporate investments, remotely managed farms, large family enterprises with extensive diversification, traditional mixed farms and hobby farms.

The population of 4,521 (2011 ABS) enjoy a range of services, delivered through the main towns of Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke and Harrow and Apsley. The population of the two larger towns is 976 for Edenhope and District and 1061 for Kaniva and district. The township of Goroke and district supports a population of approximately 600 whilst the smaller towns of Harrow and Apsley support a population of approx. 320 people. (2011 ABS statistics are taken from post code areas and include not only the township but the surrounding areas which are in the same postcode geographical area). The balance of the population is spread over a number of smaller communities which provide a focus for the agricultural community. The amenity of these communities is highly valued by residents, reflecting the natural environment and its proud agricultural heritage. Many of the Community halls in the West Wimmera are located in these smaller communities.

The municipality is transacted by two national highways (Western and Wimmera Highways respectively) and is well placed between the cities of Melbourne and Adelaide. An extensive network of arterial and local roads service towns and rural residents and businesses.



In common with many other rural municipalities, West Wimmera Shire is challenged by a continuing small decline in population. Changes in land use (timber production and the increasing use of technology in agriculture) are impacting on the local workforce needs, de-populating the rural areas. Council has identified the West Wimmera demographic profile as a key challenge for the community in planning for their future.

The table on the left shows the population decline from 2001 to 2011. The trending decline is expected to continue over the next 10 years and the challenge for council is to stop the decline and encourage our communities to grow against the trend.

Overview of West Wimmera Community Halls

There are 24 Halls in West Wimmera Shire and an additional 3 RSL halls. For the purpose of this study, we define Community Halls as:

- Based on a community of locality rather than interest or sector
- enables communities to meet together
- helps meet the social and recreation needs of the communities
- able to be used through hireage for meetings and social events e.g. birthdays, funerals
- a focus for a wide range of social, cultural, recreational and educational activities

Most of the community halls were built as far back as the 1940-50s – some earlier and were built to give the community a focus point and meeting place. The halls tend to be “one days horse ride” from the next.

The ownership of the halls varies through out the Shire – some owned by West Wimmera Shire Council, some are under private ownership and many are community halls that are built on Crown land Reserve.

Ownership is not a contributing factor when the service provisions of the halls are considered – communities believe that the purpose of the hall is far more important than who owns it.

Where this does come into play is in the operational side of the hall management and decommissioning of halls no longer required by the community.

Information gleaned from the DEPI regarding Community Halls built on Crown Land clarifies the different processes used for this portfolio and does effect the decision making processes.

- Community halls built on Crown Reserve Land have a committee of management that reports to the DEPI. The committee of management can be the Council (as per the Kaniva Hall) or a Crown Appointed Committee (as per the Peronne Hall).
- There are guidelines and responsibilities attached to Committees of Management for Halls built on Crown Reserve Land. In summary these responsibilities include the management, maintenance and improvement of an asset that is built on Crown land Reserve.
- There is no desire from the DEPI to close halls that are operating – “once it’s gone – it is gone and will not be replaced”
- As long as there is a committee to manage, maintain and improve the Community Hall, the DEPI intend to maintain the status quo.
- If a committee no longer requires the Hall or the community is no longer able to manage it – the committee must resign to the Crown and the DEPI will organise what happens to the infrastructure on the Crown Land Reserve. Where possible the buildings and assets are sold and the funds given back to the community.

Council's Current policy and role relating to Community Halls:

The West Wimmera Shire's current Community Halls Policy (policy last reviewed at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 11th March 2010) outlines Council's position with regard to the management and support of Community Halls.

The Policy states that "West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to promoting community development within the Shire and, consequently, is committed to encouraging community participation and self help service provision. To this extent, Council provides limited assistance to encourage and facilitate the provision of services, where such services and facilities help Council meet its goals and objectives".

The objectives contained in this policy are:

- 1. To ensure that community halls, which have significant strategic importance in community development and service provision, continue to operate for the benefit of the community*
- 2. To ensure that an equitable level of support to the community hall Committees of Management.*

The Policy includes actions on behalf of the Council:

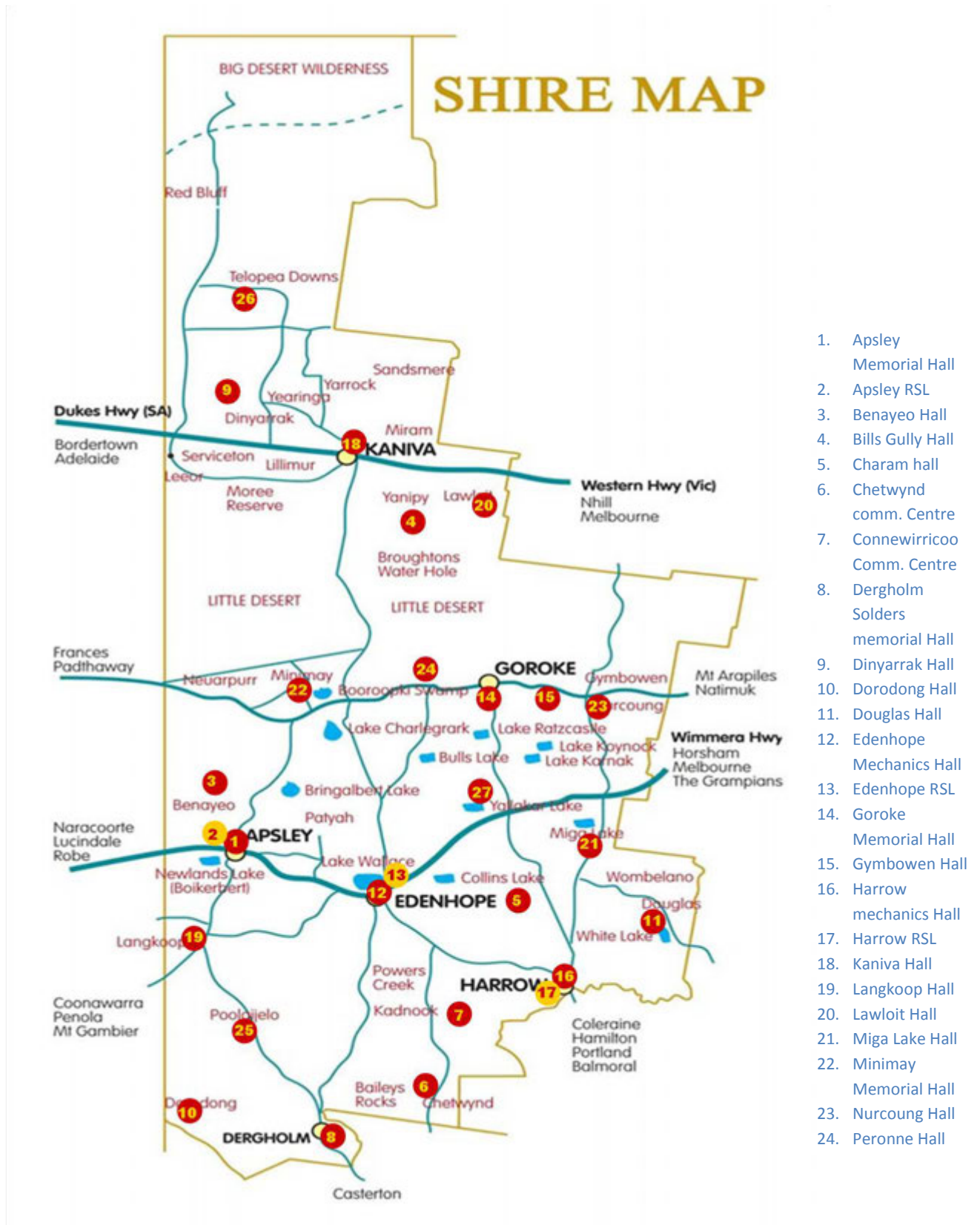
- 1. Council will maintain and insure the halls owned by the Council*
- 2. Council will as a priority use its own halls*
- 3. Council will provide limited assistance to the halls of significant strategic importance to the community, which help meet Council's goals and objectives, this may include assistance with Public Liability Insurance where appropriate*
- 4. Council will provide advice and limited assistance (through its community assistance grants programs) to the Committees of Management, where applications meet funding criteria and where budgeted funds are available.*
- 5. Council will, where possible, use community halls as a preference to other venues, for its own activities/meetings as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.*
- 6. Council will provide advertising/marketing support, as appropriate, for community halls to encourage usage. (WWSC Minute book Page 17759)*

This policy was originally adopted in 1999 and has seen little change over the following fifteen years. There have, however, been new Council Plans set in place which outline Council's aspirations and actions for the next three years and which also reflect the themes from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan.

As a result of engagement with Elected Members, Council has voiced a strong desire to recognise the vital role of community halls, to adopt a consistent, supportive and informative role and to support communities by facilitating any changes to hall status on behalf of the communities. The Elected members also sought an introduction of clear guidelines and support services for these committees.

Location of West Wimmera Shire Community Halls

The following map sets out where the halls are located in West Wimmera shire:



Grouping of halls

For the purpose of this review Community halls have been grouped by the following criteria:

GROUP A COMMUNITY HALLS – Major Town Halls

These Halls are situated in the Major Towns in West Wimmera.

- Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups
- The catchment caters for people from beyond shire boundaries
- Funded by West Wimmera Shire

GROUP B COMMUNITY HALLS - Minor Town Halls

These Halls are situated in a town which has less population than the major towns, however still has alternative space for functions and have a township precinct. These towns have schools, churches, retail outlets, police presence, medical centres and support for the local communities

- Catering for larger events
- The catchment caters for people beyond town boundaries
- Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI

GROUP C COMMUNITY HALLS - Community Hubs

These Halls are often the only infrastructure in the community, usually situated near the CFA fire shed.

- The only meeting place in the community
- Keeping the community connected
- Often the gathering place in case of emergency
- Often used by CFA for HQ in case of fire event
- Used for meetings, community gatherings and private functions
- Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI

GROUP D COMMUNITY HALLS - Special Interest Halls

These halls hold special significance and draw a community from beyond the area that has a special interest in the Hall.

- Tourism or historic focus
- Catchment is beyond community/district and often shire boundaries

GROUP E COMMUNITY HALLS - Non operating halls

These halls are not being used

- Structural safety issues
- No community to support the hall

GROUP F HALLS – RSL Halls

These halls have a focus from an interest group (RSL Members)

- Funded through RSL membership – hired out occasionally to small groups to assist funding.

As these halls are based on an interest or sector, we have not included these halls into the Community Hall definition; however need to be taken into account when looking at the other infrastructure available for meetings in a particular area.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

The following table sets out the hall groupings and the ownership details of each Hall.

	Description of Hall grouping	Halls owned by West Wimmera Shire	Halls on Crown Land Reserve	Privately Owned Halls
GROUP A	Major Town Halls. These Halls are situated in the Major Towns in West Wimmera. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups The catchment caters for people from beyond shire boundaries Funded by West Wimmera Shire 	Edenhope Mechanics Hall	Kaniva Shire Hall	
GROUP B	Minor Town Halls These Halls are situated in a town which has less population than the major towns, however still has alternative space for functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering for larger events The catchment caters for people beyond town boundaries Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI 	Apsley Hall	Goroke Memorial Hall	Harrow Mechanics Institute
GROUP C	Community Hubs These Halls are the only infrastructure in the community (apart from CFA fire shed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only meeting place in the community Keeping the community connected Often the gathering place in case of emergency Often used by CFA for HQ in case of fire event Used for meetings, community gatherings and private functions Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI 	Charam Hall	Chetwynd Hall	Benayeo Hall
		Douglas Hall	Dorodong Hall	Dergholm
		Gymbowen Community Hall	Langkoop Hall	Soldiers Memorial hall
			Lawloit Hall	Connewirricoo
		Nurcoungh Memorial Hall	Minimay Soldiers Memorial Hall	Community Centre
			Peronne Memorial Hall	
			Poolaijelo Soldiers Memorial Hall	
			Telopea Downs Hall	
GROUP D	Special Interest Halls These halls hold special significance and draw a community from beyond the area who have a special interest in the Hall		Bills Gully Hall	
GROUP E	Non –operating halls These halls are not being used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural safety issues No community to support the hall 	Miga Lake Hall		Dinyarrak Hall
		Ullswater Hall		

Issues - General:

Following a comprehensive community engagement process with operating Hall committees and communities and also meetings with Council Staff, Elected Members and the DEPI, there have emerged a number of consistent issues.

- Regardless of ownership, community halls are vital to provide a gathering place for communities, providing a space for people to engage with each other. In many cases the community hall is the only infrastructure in the community.
- For health and well being, people need to stay connected to their community and the halls are a vehicle to allow this to happen.
- The effort of volunteers is crucial to the existence and continuation of community halls. Their fund raising efforts and the physical work they undertake provide the funds to operate manage and improve these community assets.
- There is no way in the current method of accounting to accurately look at the cost of an individual hall or the halls as a group. Budget items are spread right across various departments – Corporate and Community Services, Administration, Asset Management, Building Maintenance, Insurance and various services. For example, the Kaniva hall receives an income from hall hire; WWSC pays for operating costs, maintenance and insurances. Because the income and costs are spread over many various budget allocations, there is no way to ascertain what the management of the Kaniva hall actually costs the Shire.
- The reimbursement of costs by Council to hall committees is ad hoc and inequitable. There are duplications of public liability insurance payments, inequity in payments of Building insurance, and no plan for ongoing maintenance.
- The maintenance of various halls is largely dependant on “the squeaky wheel getting oiled”.
- Communication has been ad hoc. Some Community Halls have not had contact from Council for several years.
- Confusion around the roles and responsibilities of the various committees – there are halls which have more than one committee (usually the same people) which results in doubling up of expenses such as Public Liability Insurance.
- Confusion over Building insurance – if it is required and who carries the responsibility.
- Lack of knowledge of the grants process – when grants become available, where they can be accessed and how to put together an application.
- Lack of understanding of Council’s role and DEPI’s role in Managing community halls.
- Lack of knowledge about charging for Hall Hire and how to recover the associated costs with operating the hall.
- Concern over meeting costs that are not a part of the management or operation of the hall.

Issues of individual halls (directly from community engagement feedback sessions)

Community Halls		Issues for each hall obtained from Community Engagement Process
GROUP A HALLS	Edenhope Mechanics Hall	The community believe the Edenhope Mechanics hall needs to be replaced with a multi purpose Community centre that will cater to the wider community, rationalise some of the buildings and unite the community in an active hub. The current building is an “eye sore” and has some major structural and usability issues. The Hall is loosing patronage due to not being user friendly and unwelcoming. The feedback from the community is that they would like to see the operation and management be shared between the Shire and the community – a booking system through Council Staff with a “friends of the Hall” type group to ensure community involvement.
	Kaniva Shire Hall	The Kaniva Shire hall is functioning well and serving the community. A recent review of rates has addressed hall hire charge issues that were of concern to regular users. The feedback from the community is that they would like to see the operation and management be shared between the Shire and the community – a booking system through Council Staff with a “friends of the Hall” type group to ensure community involvement.
GROUP B HALLS	Apsley Hall	Apsley hall is meeting the needs of the community. The Crown believes that they are the managing body for this hall although it is built on West Wimmera Shire land. Public liability is paid by both Crown and Shire – the Crown provides grant funding and the Shire provides maintenance as a Shire owned building. Assistance with marketing exposure would be beneficial.
	Goroke Memorial Mall	Goroke is meeting the needs of the community and has had the Goroke P-12 college adopt the hall as a part of their youth program. The main issues are around ownership and they have a desire for WWSC to take ownership of the hall. This is a community hall build on Crown land Reserve. Clarification of this and the role of the committee would alleviate their concerns. Assistance with grant funding would be of benefit.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

	Harrow Mechanics Institute	Harrow Mechanics Institute is functioning well; however they house the local library (Wimmera Library Services) and cover power costs when they are operating. They also cover the power costs for the public amenities and the external street lighting outside the amenities. These power costs are stretching the committee's budget. Assistance with grant funding applications and marketing would be beneficial.
GROUP CHALLS	Benayeo Hall	The Benayeo hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Charam Hall	The Charam hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Chetwynd Hall	The Telopea Downs hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability and the roles of the various committees is required. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Assistance is requested for the maintenance of the Public Amenities.
	Connewirricoo Community Centre	The Connewirricoo Community Centre is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Dergholm Soldiers Memorial hall	The Dergholm hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Dorodong Hall	The Dorodong hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Douglas Hall	The Douglas hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Gymbowen Community Hall	The Gymbowen hall currently has maintenance work being carried out and is not operating. This will resume when the work has been completed. The Hall is available to the community when required. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Langkoop Hall	The Langkoop hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Assistance is requested for the maintenance of the Public Amenities.
Lawloit Hall	The Lawloit hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Minimay Soldiers Memorial Hall	The Minimay hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability and what is required of the committee would be helpful. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Nurcough Memorial Hall	The Nurcough hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Improved directional signage would also help
Peronne Memorial Hall	The Peronne hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

	Poolaijelo Soldiers Memorial Hall	<p>address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.</p> <p>The Poolaijelo hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Rear steps are becoming a risk area and need to be addressed</p>
	Telopea Downs Hall	<p>The Telopea Downs hall is meeting the needs of the community.</p> <p>Assistance with understanding Public liability and the roles of the various committees is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.</p>
GROUP D HALLS	Bills Gully Hall	<p>The Bills Gully hall is operating well.</p> <p>Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. There are concerns over the type of amenities (long drop) and that the building does not meet regulations and some assistance in keeping the historical aspect of the hall intact whilst improving it's function would be of assistance.</p>
GROUP E HALLS	Dinyarrak Hall	The Dinyarrak hall is not fit for use. It is derelict.
	Miga Lake Hall	The Miga Lake hall is no longer supported by a community. There is no access or committee to manage the hall.
	Ullswater Hall	The Ullswater Hall has serious safety issues and we believe that this is no longer fit for public use. Many attempts have been made to contact the committee for feed back in various forms with no success. There is no power to the hall at present, dangerous back landing with no steps, no internal lining and structurally suspect.

The Future:

As per the feedback from West Wimmera Shire Council, Council has a desire to facilitate the continuing provision of Community Halls in the West Wimmera Shire in line with the Council Plan. Equally, Council sees volunteer community input as essential not only to the physical administration of Community Halls, but also their maintenance and promotion as valuable meeting places in local communities. In acknowledging an ongoing involvement with community hall facilities, Council wishes to develop a policy that will help Council to meet the needs of a range of communities in the West Wimmera and to balance various needs in a transparent and systematic way.

Council wishes to ensure:

- A consistent approach to community halls by Council
- The clear identification of rolls and responsibilities of both Council and Hall Committees
- The creation and maintenance of clear, open and regular communication channels
- An increased sense of purpose of community involvement of community halls
- Establishing a clear process to manage the change in hall status – whether to remove a hall from the hall portfolio, up grade or re develop an existing hall.

With the development of this strategy, Council will move to more consistently support the operations and maintenance of community halls – regardless of ownership. Council believes that these facilities play a crucial community building role in West Wimmera and that the ownership of the facilities is secondary to their existence and function.

In response to this review, we have developed options that address current issues and improve the performance of community halls across social, physical, operational and financial contexts – both Shire wide and on a hall by hall level.

Options and Recommendations

Option 1: Status Quo

Not recommended.

Do nothing and leave the management of the community halls as is. Council continue to support Council owned halls through the current asset management system. Other halls are left to the community to manage. Remove group E halls that are privately owned from the Community Halls List as these are no longer active.

This option gives little support for Committees who manage Community Halls on Crown Land Reserve or on private land. These committees will need to continue to manage their own community asset. This option does not meet the desires that Council has expressed during the engagement session with Elected Members as a part of this review or the aspirations of Council expressed in the Council Plan.

Option 2: Managed portfolio

Recommended

Manage the Community Halls as a portfolio regardless of ownership. Leave the ownership as it is and continue to manage the Council owned Halls through the Council Asset Management system on a lifecycle basis. Group A Halls to be managed and operated by the Shire (income and costs to be managed as a cost centre), Group B, C and D halls operated and managed by committees (either incorporated or Crown appointed), operating costs, minor maintenance and improvement costs to be managed by committees through income from hall hire, fund raising and funding opportunities. Group E halls need to be decommissioned. Facilitate the asset management on behalf of the Committees of Management who manage halls on Crown Reserve Land or on privately owned land on behalf of the communities: this would also be on a lifecycle basis. Provide a managed communication/support system for community halls.

This option provides the consistency and open communication that Council is seeking and recognises the work that volunteers do to ensure the service delivery of their Community Halls. It also supports the asset management of these halls whilst maintaining the funding channels with the DEPI and ensures that Community Halls remain a safe public place.

This option ensures that Council will facilitate the renewal, decommissioning and change of status of Community Halls through sound asset management systems, lifecycle planning and community engagement and support.

Option 3: Council Control over all Halls

Not Recommended

Council become the Committee of Management for all Halls – Council is already COM for Kaniva Shire Hall. This option will have a cost associated as Council will be responsible for the operation, management and improvement for all Halls within the Shire. All halls would need to be managed through the Council Asset Management system and halls could be operated by Council appointed committees.

Although giving Council more choices as to the operation, management and maintenance of these Halls, this option does not provide for the involvement of community in the operation, management and improvement of Community Halls. This will cost shift all responsibility onto the Council leaving little incentive for communities to take ownership of their own community halls and closes the door for DEPI and philanthropic funding organisations to support a large sector of the Community Halls.

After following our methodology which includes research and input and feed back from:

- Council Staff
- Elected members of West Wimmera Shire
- Operating Hall Committees
- Representatives from the wider communities of Kaniva and Edenhope
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Regional Development Victoria

We strongly recommend option 2 as being the way forward to manage the portfolio of Community Halls in West Wimmera Shire. This option delivers on the Council Plan; it supports West Wimmera Shire communities and allows for changes within the Hall Portfolio.

The strategies for consideration to improve the outcomes achieved through Councils community halls over the next 10 years have then been developed in four areas:

1. Portfolio strategies – Council will have a customer focused portfolio of well maintained, well managed halls supported by Council and the local community
2. Organisational strategies – Community Halls will operate with clear, relevant and consistent guidelines which are updated when necessary and provide a clear direction for Committees, Committees of Management and the Council for the operation of the Community Halls in West Wimmera Shire
3. Business development strategies – Council will be confident its halls achieve maximum value through strong support in marketing and a commitment to customer service.
4. Community strengthening strategies – The Community Halls portfolio will be an important component of the tools Council has to build strong communities.

Portfolio Strategies:

The management of community halls needs to be addressed at a Council administrative level. As Community Halls have specific purpose and requirements, these assets, regardless of ownership should be managed in one portfolio. This portfolio should have a policy that relates directly to the current Council Plan and should be the nucleus for all Councils activities relating to community halls. Ideally the portfolio should sit in one department (Department of Corporate and Community Services) and have a qualified and capable staff member responsible for the administration of that portfolio. This would address the issue of communication and help build relationships, not only with Hall Committees and Committees of Management but also the other stake holders such as internal departments at West Wimmera Shire, the DEPI and other avenues of grant funding opportunities.

There is a need for a more responsive approach to information requests, maintenance issues and a more entrepreneurial approach to managing the business of the halls.

Councils Asset Management Policy manages the assets of West Wimmera Shire on behalf of the community to deliver present and future service needs. Asset Management decisions will require Council to take a lifecycle approach to asset management decisions of the Hall Portfolio. These decisions will require consideration of maintenance, operation, renewal and/or disposal of assets over time, based on sound demand planning and clarity around desired service levels.

Organisational Strategies

With the creation and implementation of a clear set of guidelines for the management and operation of halls, much of the confusion that exists would be dealt with. This could include a set of guidelines for different types of committees which assist them to understand their roles in managing and operating community halls and the role Council plays. These guidelines would clearly detail requirements, responsibilities and processes. Clear guidelines would also ensure an equitable approach to the management of this portfolio.

Business Development Strategies:

Community Halls are by their nature centres with a social rather than a business orientation. However there are opportunities to increase usage of Halls and assist those managing the halls increase revenue through assistance with advertising and marketing. Exposure on Councils web site is a cost effective way to assist in promoting community halls within the Shire. Support from Council staff to assist in planning the business of the halls would further strengthen the financial stability of individual halls by ensuring usage.

Community strengthening strategies:

The Halls in West Wimmera Shire have been “passive” enablers for community development. These Halls can be better utilised by Council to assist with strengthening communities. A stronger connection between Council staff and the Hall communities will enable the Halls to be utilised as a tool to keep people connected, welcome and involve new comers into communities and provide the social fabric that keeps small communities together.

In summary – the halls would come under one portfolio that falls into the Department of Corporate and Community Services. There would be a capable staff member who has this portfolio allocated as part of the job description. That Staff member would liaise with other internal stakeholders (Department of Infrastructure and Works – asset manager and maintenance, finance, I.T. and community development), and would be the contact for all Hall committees, would manage the relationship with DEPI, would support, assist and inform Hall Committees with business plans and ideas, funding opportunities and promotional activities.

Figure 1



Hall Group and individual Hall recommendations:

These recommendations outline the changes required for OPTION 2 to meet the strategic objectives of Council. Each hall group has a number of recommendations as well as proposed futures for individual halls.

GROUP A HALLS

These halls are located in the two main towns in the West Wimmera along with the Shire offices. Their usage is higher than most of the other halls and have the ability to increase usage in the future. The following changes are recommended:

1. Both Shire Halls be managed by the Shire through a booking system which can be managed through the Shire email system – allowing transparent usage records and ease of use between Council Staff.
2. Halls be set up as a cost centre where records will provide a detailed picture of what the hall is costing the Shire to operate and maintain.
3. Halls to be maintained through the Council Asset Management Policy including an ongoing maintenance schedule to ensure ongoing life cycle management.
4. Halls to have a business plan to ensure usage – including promotional and financial factors.
5. A “Friends of the Hall” group be formed in each community as an advisory group to assist Council with promotion and maintain connection between the community and the Shire Halls.
6. Halls to be included on the “Halls in West Wimmera” page of the West Wimmera Shire Web Site including hall details and contact details for booking purposes.

	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
GROUP A	Edenhope Mechanics Hall	Needs significant investment in renewal – some urgent maintenance underway. Significant issues impairing usage. Good location in Community Precinct. Hall does not currently meet the needs of the community.	Investigate redevelopment based on community hub concept, rationalising some of the other infrastructure. Construct a project plan including concept design and funding requirements. Form a community steering committee to guide the project. Incorporate the future of the hall into planning for a community precinct. Manage as a business cost centre with business planning and cost neutral operational outcomes	Short Term – immediately Short term – within two years Medium to long term
	Kaniva Shire Hall	Requires small - medium investment in heating and cooling systems and upgrade of kitchen.	Maintain as is. Possible inclusion of wet bar to assist in a wider hire market. Unused area on the second level to be utilised by Council/Community groups. Market historical significance.	Short Term- within two years

GROUP B and C HALLS:

These Halls are located in the minor towns with in a precinct and communities where they are the community hub and the only meeting place available for connecting people to the wider community. These halls are operated by committees of management or incorporated committees depending on the ownership status. The following changes are recommended:

7. Council recognises these halls as important community assets and recognises it's role in ensuring their ongoing viability
8. Council supports a council/community partnership approach to the community halls. Council will assist with exterior and internal health and safety related maintenance whilst the committees will be responsible for minor maintenance and operation of the halls
9. That a comprehensive inspection be carried out on all 18 group B and C halls by Council Asset Management Staff and Hall Committee representatives
10. That this information be used to develop a five-ten year work plan for community hall maintenance that will include any actions required by council (e.g. frequency of inspections)
11. That a Community Hall Maintenance fund is established to assist community hall committees with exterior and interior health and safety related maintenance. Community Hall Management Committees will be able to apply for funding in writing and applications considered on an annual basis according to priorities set by the five to ten year work plan. This ensures that the futures of the halls are driven by the community. This fund is not intended to provide funding for capital works or acquisitions, the costs of facility activities or operational/running costs and needs to be included in future budgets.
12. That Council provide public liability insurance to committee members and volunteers of Council owned and privately owned Community Halls and communicate with Crown appointed Committees of Management regarding the public liability insurance that is provided by the DEPI.
13. That Council Staff investigate cost effective Building Insurance options for Community Halls
14. That an annual grant be included in the West Wimmera Shire Community Grants for improvements to Community Halls to encourage and increase usage. As many of the funds raised by hall committees go to operational costs, the grant needs to be constructed in such a way that in-kind labour will form a part of the grant application.
15. That Council Staff liaise with DEPI to bring issues and opportunities related to Community Halls built on Crown Land Reserve to Council for further consideration
16. That public information about Community Halls be added to Councils website
17. That Council develop a resource guide for Hall committees
18. That Council communicate on a regular bases with Hall Committees – sharing information about issues, funding opportunities and how the committees are managing their operations.
19. That Council facilitate a change of hall status on behalf of a community.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

GROUP B AND C HALLS	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
	Apsley Hall	Hall operating well. Ownership needs to be sorted out with DEPI as currently Shire and DEPI are paying public liability insurance and are providing funding for maintenance and upgrading.	Maintain as is. Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Goroke Memorial Hall	Hall operating well – clarification regarding community hall on Crown land reserve. Minor work to be done on disabled access to kitchen/supper room area.	Maintain as is. Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term-
	Harrow Mechanics Institute	Hall operating well – Needs to have payment of Council services sorted out as well as costs incurred by Wimmera Library Services	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Painting of interior block walls	Short Term Medium term 2-5 years
	Benayeo Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Charam Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Chetwynd Hall	Community Hub Clarification regarding community hall on Crown land reserve.	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Connewirricoo Community Centre	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Dergholm Soldiers Memorial hall	Community Hub Some issues with front wall damage.	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Dorodong Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Revise hall in medium term with option to assist committee to decommission through DEPI if committee desires	Short Term Medium to long term (5-10 years)

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Douglas Hall	Community Hub Needs minor roof repair work	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short term
Gymbowen Community Hall	Community Hall – currently having minor renovation work done on interior – low usage.	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Revise hall in medium term with option to decommission if usage does not improve	Short term Medium term 2-5 years
Langkoop Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Lawloit Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Minimay Soldiers Memorial Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Nurcoungh Memorial Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Peronne Memorial Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Revise hall in medium term with option to assist committee to decommission through DEPI if committee desires	Short Term Medium term 2-5 years
Poolaijelo Soldiers Memorial Hall	Community Hub Requires maintenance on rear steps that are coming away from the main building	Maintain as is Repair work on steps (safety issue) Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Telopea Downs Hall	Community Hub Clarification regarding community hall on Crown land reserve/Inc. Committee	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term

GROUP D HALLS

This hall is a special interest hall with historical significance and should be placed in a different category. The following changes are recommended

20. This hall be placed under the portfolio of Tourism and the hall be treated as an attraction to the Shire, managed by the current Committee of Management
21. That point 6 through to 13 from the GROUP B and C halls be included in this recommendation
22. That Council involve this hall in heritage studies and policies

	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
GROUP D	Bills Gully Hall	Hall operating well.	Maintain as is, however	Short Term
		The main part of this hall is the historical significance. It is a hall managed by a special interest group. The state of the building is satisfactory but it is rustic and renewal would destroy the significance and interest in the hall	consider re-purpose the hall and remove from community hall portfolio. Promote hall usage via Council web site and involve West Wimmera Tourism in promotional activities Advise of funding opportunities Investigate links to Heritage portfolios and opportunities	Medium to long term (2-10 years)

GROUP E HALLS

These halls are not operating and have serious structural and operational issues.

The following changes are recommended

23. These halls be removed from the Community Hall portfolio
24. Where necessary, Council facilitate the winding up of incorporated bodies
25. Council liaise with halls that are privately owned to remove from the Halls Portfolio
26. Council ensure that council owned halls that are unsafe are cordoned off from potential visitors to the site or passers by
27. Council dispose of Council owned halls and property that is no longer required and direct any funds into the Community Hall Maintenance fund as per recommendation 5

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

GROUP E HALLS	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
	Dinyarrak Hall	Derelict, not fit for habitation	Remove from Community Hall Portfolio	Short Term
	Miga Lake Hall	No access, No committee, non operational	Remove from Community Hall Portfolio Dispose of property	Short – medium term
	Ullswater Hall	No access, Health and safety issues, structurally suspect, currently non operational	CLOSE TO PUBLIC ACCESS Remove from Community hall portfolio Liaise with the committee and facilitate decommissioning Dispose of property	Short term Short – medium Term

Funding opportunities

Edenhope Renewal - There are funding opportunities available to assist with the renewal of the Edenhope Hall. RDV and RDA both have opportunities into which this project would fit. This project could also be under a partnership arrangement with some of the other groups interested in being involved with a Community Hub concept which opens the doors to further funding opportunities. The community of Edenhope have also indicated that they would commit to fund-raising.

DEPI – Although the current funding the DEPI had available for Community Halls on Crown Land Reserve has been allocated for this financial year, there will be other opportunities available in the future. A strong relationship between Council, Committees of Management and the DEPI will ensure that these funding opportunities are utilised when they become available.

FRRR – Foundation of Regional and Rural Renewal

Grants up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities with populations of 10,000 or less that live in small rural and remote locations in Australia.

The program funds a wide range of projects such as:

- Repair and maintenance of small to mid-scale community infrastructure, such as public halls, schools and recreation reserves.
- Providing communications equipment and enhancing infrastructure and systems, especially for emergency services organisations.
- Community events and capacity building, such as volunteer training, support and development

Appendix 1. Halls at a glance

The “Halls at a glance” pages are a summary of the halls and contain information gleaned from community engagement sessions.

Apsley Community Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community venue •Meeting place for regular groups and for larger private and community functions •Approximately 15 function per year •regular groups - monthly market •Private functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •very Good condition •Grant recieved for work to upgrade kitchen •WWSC do much of the maintenance work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hall owned by WWSC / land adjacent is crown land •Operated by an incorporated committee and by Crown appointed committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is in a good financial state, meeting costs •Many Maintenance and some services paid for by WWSC

Location:



Wallace Street, Apsley Victoria

Context:

- In a community precinct along with football club, RSL Hall, Primary school, limited business (Post office, Hotel and General Store opening in near future) Churches and recreational parks
- Hall services district catchment as an option to cater for larger functions
- Good access by car, located on the Wimmera Highway
- Population decline over the past 20 years

Description

- Brick building in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with separate supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Benayeo Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular BBQ functions (12 p/a) for community, CFA meetings •Catering for private functions •gathering place during emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on private land •Operated by an incorporated committee (Benayeo Hall Inc) •Committee working well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees - CFA donations •Rely on grants for major projects •Theft/security an issue for hall and CFA shed

Location:



Benayeo Road, Benayeo

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Benayeo (plus fire shed situated on same allotment)
- Hall services a community of approx. 50 people from the Benayeo, Neuarpurr district – a community hub and important gathering space
- Reasonable access by car, well fenced

Description

- Colour Bond / wood construction in good condition
- Out door BBQ area under cover
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Bills Gully Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Special interest place •Meeting place for Committee and welfare group monthly meetings. •Catering for private functions •Appeals to and is hired out by groups looking for a historical. out of the way place •Camping encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good but rustic condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •committee attempting to retain the historical aspect •Good kitchen facilities •Long drop toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve (Built 1913) •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management •Funds raised by a welfare group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects •recently recieved a grant from DEPI to assist with guttering repairs

Location:



Bills Gully Road, Miram South

Context:

- In a quiet bush setting with historical significance. Surrounded by a beautiful bush setting
- Hall services a wide catchment for those looking for an out of the way, quiet place in a rustic setting.
- Reasonable access by car – poorly signed from Western Highway
- More of a tourist attraction than a community hub

Description

- Wood and corrugated iron building on bush stumps
- Memorabilia and amazing wooden floors
- Out door areas and long drop toilets
- Standard open hall configuration with wood fire
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Charam Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community, Tennis club, and CFA •approx. 24 functions per year incl regular users •Catering for private functions •serves as the club rooms for the adjacent tennis courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers with assistance from WW Shire •Good kitchen facilities •External shade area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on West Wimmera Shire land •Operated by the Charam Tennis Club Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Charam Wombelano Road, Charam

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Charam with adjacent tennis courts
- Hall services a community of approx. 20 people from the Charam district
- An important community hub and used predominantly by the Tennis Club which caters for players from the district and Edenhope/Apsley areas
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside Shaded area for BBQ's

Chetwynd Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used approx. 3 times per month including regular groups: DEPI, CFA, Land Care and community BBQ's •Catering for private functions •historical significance •home for the district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown Appointed Committee and an incorporated committee •Confusion around committee roles and responsibilities (Crown or incorporated?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is just meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •WWSC pay for building insurance •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Casterton Edenhope Road, Chetwynd

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Chetwynd
- Hall services a small community from the Chetwynd area and draws visitors from further afield due to historic nature
- An important community hub and used to bring the surrounding district together.
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Hall is timber construction and school house is of weather board construction
- Standard open hall configuration - separate school house
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside Shaded area for BBQ'
- External amenities also used by passing traffic

Connewirricoo Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community, CFA, Tennis club •approx. 24 functions per year •Catering for private functions •camping facilities and dormitory facilities to cater for group accommodation •bush setting to attract tourist type groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Excellent kitchen facilities •Dormitory set up for accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on private land •Operated by an incorporated committee •Committee working well - very active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Kadnook Connewirricoo Road, Connewirricoo

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Connewirricoo, adjacent tennis courts and fire shed
- Hall services a community of approx. 80-100 people from the Connewirricoo-Harrow district
- An important community hub
- Tourist/camping attraction for groups
- Reasonable access by car, well fenced

Description

- Cement sheet/wood construction in very good condition
- Out door BBQ area under cover with weather blinds
- Two room hall configuration
- Excellent kitchen and servery
- Dormitory accommodation

Dergholm and District Soldiers Memorial Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used approx. 12 times per year: regular groups include CFA, Land Care and community functions •Catering for private functions •historical "soldiers" significance •home for the district memorabilia - Soldiers and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities •separate supper room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Private land •Operated by an incorporated Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is just meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Casterton-Apsley Road, Dergholm

Context:

- In a rural setting , other business includes the Local Hotel
- Hall services a small community from Dergholm and surrounds of approx 50 people
- An important community hub and used to bring the surrounding district together.
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Hall is block construction and has had some structural issues
- Standard open hall configuration with stage - separate supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Dinyarrak hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No longer being used by community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No longer fit for use•Building has deteriorated to a point where it is not salvageable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Hall is privately owned on private land•No longer being operated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Not Applicable

Location:



Dinyarrak

Context:

- Located in the middle of farm land
- Hall no longer services a community

Description

- Corrugated iron on wood construction which is falling down
- No roof. Area now fenced off.

Dorodong - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •Camping encouraged •Hired out for private functions •Less than 6 times per year including occasional meeting of CFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee •Good kitchen facilities being upgraded (DEPI Grant) •Some minor works to be done on window frames 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management •Committee keen to keep the hall operating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects •Looking to expand to events where people can BBQ and camp

Location:



Dorodong Road, Dorodong

Context:

- In a quiet bush setting surrounded by State Park
- Hall services a small community which has declined due to the blue gums
- Reasonable access by car
- This is the only infrastructure (apart from the fire shed) in Dorodong where the committee meet

Description

- Block construction, very solid and in good condition
- Serviceable kitchen which is being upgraded
- Standard open hall configuration

Douglas Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community, Tennis club, ram sales and committee meetings •approx. 15 functions per year •Catering for private functions - funerals, birthdays, weddings, reunions •Displays memorabilia of the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Excellent kitchen facilities •New wood fire installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on West Wimmera Shire land •Operated by an incorporated committee •Committee working well - very active and passionate about their hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects •Community are very supportive with donations

Location:



Harrow Clear lake Road, Douglas

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Douglas, adjacent tennis courts and fire shed
- Hall services a community of approx. 100 people from a district stretching from Douglas through to Miga Lake
- An important community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with additional supper room with wood fire
- Excellent kitchen and servery

Edenhope Mechanics hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Major town hall •Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups •Private functions •Used by College, Shire, Sporting clubs for large events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •poor condition and losing events due to the condition •WWSC have done some work to ensure the safety of hall users and by standers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hall owned by West Wimmera Shire •Section 86 committee in place but have not met - currently being managed by incorporated committee •Committee is frustrated due to condition and lack of council /community support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All income goes to the incorporated committee •WWSC pay for all costs •Income through hall hire for private functions

Location:



Elizabeth Street, Edenhope

Edenhope Hall 2013

Hall was booked for 60 events (taken from diary) this included 6 line dancing sessions, 17 indoor bowls bookings, 6 private bookings, 2 West Wimmera Shire bookings, 2 Edenhope College Bookings, 13 Debutante practice and ball bookings.

The balances of the bookings are a combination of Lions club, hall committee meetings, Girl Guide Group, DEPI meeting and venue for elections.

Context:

- In a community precinct along with sporting clubs, Schools, Hospital, Medical centre, local business and recreational areas/tourist areas
- The hall services a catchment that goes beyond the Shire boundaries, catering for large events.
- Good access by car and parking available.

Description

- Timber building in poor condition – structural and internal usage issues
- Standard open hall configuration with stage and separate supper room
- Very Good Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Entry foyer, internal amenities

Goroke Memorial hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community venue •Meeting place for regular groups and for larger private and community functions •used on average 17 times per year •regular groups •Private functions •Used by College for large events •Hall is used to display items of historic significance to the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •very Good condition •WWSC have assisted with some maintenance work in the past •The college have adopted the hall and work along side the committee to keep clean and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community hall built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by Crown appointed committee •Committee is passionate about their Hall and work hard to maintain its good condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is in a good financial state, meeting costs •WWSC pay for Public Liability (as well as the DEPI) •Community support for hall through donations from service clubs •Income through hall hire for private functions

Location:



Main Street, Goroke

Context:

- In a community precinct along with sporting clubs, P-12 College, Medical centre, local business and recreational areas
- Hall services district catchment and serves to cater for larger functions as well as regular meetings
- Good access by car

Description

- Brick building in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage and separate supper room
- Good Serviceable kitchen and servery

Gymbowen Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community use •used occasionally - a few times per year •Catering for private functions •Gathering point in case of emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •average condition - work currently being done on Windows •Maintained through efforts of committee West Wimmera Shire Council •Amenities average (need clean up) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •West Wimmera Shire Building •Operated by an incorporated Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs comfortably through hall hire fees •Council pays Public liability •Committee have installed Solar Panels - no power costs •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Hennessey's Road, Gymbowen

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only operating infrastructure in Gymbowen
- Hall is available to the surrounding community
- Good access by car – situated just off the main road

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in average condition
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside amenities

Harrow Mechanics Institute Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community venue •Meeting place for regular groups and for larger private and community functions •At least 14 function per year •regular users including Bush Nursing Hospital •Private functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •very Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee, volunteers and local trades people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Privately Owned by Committee of Management •Operated by an incorporated committee with good support from local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is in a good financial state, meeting costs •also covering power costs for library, public amenities and external street lighting •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Blair Street, Harrow

Context:

- In a community precinct with historical significance along with football club, RSL Hall, Bush Nursing Hospital, Local trade, Tourist attractions (Interpretative Cricket centre, river and water hole) Churches and recreational and camping parks
- Hall services district catchment as an option to cater for larger functions
- Good access by car

Description

- Brick building in very good condition
- Adjoining land to be developed with the hall
- Contains library – used as separate meeting room
- Standard open hall configuration with wet bar
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Kaniva Shire Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Major town hall •Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups •Private functions - Birthdays, weddings, funerals. •Used by College, Shire, Sporting clubs for large events, yoga group, CFA and community Group Hire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition - beautiful hall with feature ceilings •Historic building •Upstairs area not currently utilised •Needs work with heating and cooling/ventilation systems •Kitchen requires upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hall on Crown Land Reserve West Wimmera Shire are the Committee of Management •Managed by Shire - Kaniva Council Office •Booking system needs to be upgraded and more informative •Community feel detached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Managed, operated and maintained through WWSC budget •WWSC pay for all costs •Income through hall hire for private functions to WWSC •Not a cost centre so cannot provide cost to WWSC - spread through budget items.

Location:



Baker Street, Kaniva

Kaniva Hall Usage: 2013

Hall was booked for 99 events (taken from diary) plus the lions group meet every two weeks. This includes 55 bookings for the yoga group, 5 funerals, 6 private functions, 9 West Wimmera Shire Bookings, College reunion, Bridal Display, College Presentation, and Christmas Carols

The balances of the bookings are a combination of emergency management meetings, playgroup, and Training and committee meetings.

Context:

- In a community precinct along with sporting clubs, Schools, Medical centre, local business, churches and recreational areas/tourist areas
- The hall services a catchment that goes beyond the Shire boundaries, catering for large events.
- Good access by car and parking available.

Description

- Historic brick building in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage and separate supper room
- Good Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Upstairs rooms currently not used
- Entry foyer, internal amenities

Langkoop Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community BBQ every 2nd week, Table tennis and CFA meetings •Catering for private functions - funerals, birthdays, weddings, reunions •Assembly point in cases of emergency •Public toilets available to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building Crown Land Reserve •Operated by Crown appointed committee for management •Committee working well - very active and passionate about their hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants from DEPI for major projects - recently received funding from DEPI to assist with roof repairs

Location:



Apsley Langkoop Road, Langkoop

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Langkoop
- Hall services a community of approx. 80 people from Langkoop and surrounding districts
- An important community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with additional supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- External amenities that are used as public amenities by travellers

Lawloit Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used approx. for 20 functions/ meetings per year incl regular users •Catering for private functions •Annual bush concert •home for the district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities •External covered area •very well presented supper room with wood fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown Appointed Committee •Committee are active and working well together and do most of the maintenance that is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs comfortably through fund raising at their larger events and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Lawloit Road, Lawloit

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Lawloit
- Hall services a small community from the Lawloit through to Nhill districts
- An important community hub and used to bring the surrounding district together.
- Reasonable access by car – not well signed.

Description

- Wood construction in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration - separate supper room with wood fire
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside Shaded area for BBQ's
- Well fenced

Miga Lake Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No longer being used by community•No keys available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•In fair condition•Building has been inspected externally only as there is no access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Hall is owned by West Wimmera Shire Council•There is no committee of management or any formal or informal committee managing the hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Not Applicable

Location:



Nhill Harrow Road, Miga Lake

Context:

- Located in the middle of farm land
- Hall no longer services a community

Description

- Corrugated iron and wooden building in fair condition
- Easily accessible by road
- No longer being used – surrounding community use the Douglas hall

Minimay Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •Used approximately once per month •Catering formal private and community functions •Assembly point in cases of emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building Crown Land Reserve •Operated by Crown appointed committee of management who manage the complete reserve of which the hall is a part - informal functions (private and community) are held at the football reserve rooms and BBQ area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs and are in a good financial position •Rely on grants from DEPI for major projects •Financial load spread accross the whole of the Crown land reserve area

Location:



Minimay Road, Minimay

Context:

- In a rural setting, other infrastructure includes the recreation reserve buildings, the General store and the fire shed.
- Hall services a community of approx. 100 people from the surrounding districts
- The whole reserve is an important community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Fibro cement construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration
- Large serviceable kitchen and servery
- External amenities

Nurcoun Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community hub •regular users include indoor bowls, church •Used approx. 15 times per year •Catering for private functions •Used for control centre in fire events •Housing memorabilia incl. WW1 honour rolls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •good condition and well maintained by members of the committee •Maintained through efforts of committee West Wimmera Shire Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •West Wimmera Shire Building •Operated by an incorporated Committee •Committee working well and maintain the hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs comfortably through hall hire fees •Council pays Public liability •Committee have installed Solar Panels - no power costs •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Mitre Road, Nurcoun

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Nurcoun
- Providing gathering/meeting place for Nurcoun and surrounding district
- Place for keeping historical memorabilia and documents (safe installed)
- Accessible by car

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration plus supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside amenities

Peronne Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •The only place that the community have where they can get together •Catering for private functions a few times per year •Regular CFA meeeting •Camping encouraged •Community emergency assembly point •Display of district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition - roof recently replaced •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities but no hot water service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management •Ageing population of the committee a concern but eager to continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Natimuk Frances Road, Peronne

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Peronne
- Hall services a community of approx. 20 people – a community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in good condition
- Out door areas
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery but no hot water service

Poolaijelo Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used 10-12 times per year •Used by CFA for meetings and training •hired out for private functions •bi annual market •Home for the district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •requires some work on rear steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Crown land Reserve •Operated by a Crown Appointed Committee of Management / active soldiers memorial hall committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising, wood chops (sale of fire wood) and scrap metal skip supported by local community •Committee rely on grants for any major works

Location:



Casterton Naracoorte Road, Poolaijelo

Context:

- In a rural setting, no other infrastructure
- Community Hub
- Hall services the surrounding district of Poolaijelo of approx. 40 people and services to connect people including newcomers to the area
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage – newly renovated floors
- Serviceable kitchen
- Rear access needs repair work

Telopea Downs Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular meeting for Progress association, Land care groups, CFA, and Chooks Chatter craft days •annual dinner dance •Catering for private functions •Control HQ during fire events •displays district memobabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Excellent condition - established 1974 •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Excellent kitchen facilities •accoustic friendly ceiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management and progress association committee - confusion around roles and responsibilities of various committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Dinner dance assist with a lot of the operating costs •Rely on grants for major projects •insurance costs are an issue

Location:



Edgerley Road, Telopea Downs

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Telopea Downs (plus fire shed)
- Hall services a community of approx. 40 people – a community hub and important gathering space
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Cement sheet construction in good condition
- Out door areas
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Ullswater Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Currently not used - power not connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Very poor condition•serious safety issues at back entrance (no steps and landing falling apart)•interior only partly lined - the rest is framework over corrugated iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•West WEimmera Shire Building on Shire land•There is a contact for an incorporated committee however are not currently active	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•not operating•power has been disconnected

Location:



Ullswater Mortat Road, Ullswater

Context:

- In a rural setting, no other infrastructure
- No community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in poor condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage
- Rear access hazard
- Serious conditional concerns

Appendix 2. Community Engagement session – Edenhope Hall Insight Night

Community Engagement Feedback:

Hall: Edenhope Hall

Insight Night

Date: 28th May 2014 Time: 7.00 pm

Location: Edenhope Business Centre

Attendee list:

	Name	Representing
1	John Robertson	Golf/Tennis/ Dancing/debutante balls
2	Emma Kealy	Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital
3	Glenda Forster	Traders
4	Sara McDonald	Bank/Races/playgroup and kindergarten
5	Rachael Lloyd	Land care / debutante ball
6	Nicki Fawell	Little Athletics / St Malachys
7	Stephen Lloyd	Students/youth/SES
8	Mal Hunting	RSL/ Ambulance Vic
9	Pam Young	Bowls / Senior Citizens
10	Wayne Caldow	Football club/Bendigo bank board
11	James Ackland	Bendigo Bank
12	Dale McIvor	Edenhope Police
13	Angela Kealy	St Malachys
14	Colin Kelly	Newly formed Arts group, new resident
15	Gayle Kelly	Newly formed Arts group, new resident
16	Mary Foster	Netball/football/EDMH
17	Geoff Langsworth	Historical Society
18	Alan Sambel	Historical Society (also section 86 member)
19	Julie West	Henley on lake Wallace Committee
20	Val Tischler	Edenhope College

Format

- Sena Solutions to give a brief rundown of the hall history
- Questions asked from participants in conversational style to tease out the feedback from people and the groups that they are involved with. Is there a consensus?
- Final (short and concise) comment from everyone relating to whole topic or any area which they feel needs to be voiced.
- Comment board – post it notes available for any comments that were missed or not addressed during the session or any comments that need reinforcement.

Preamble – history of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall:

The Council has asked for Strategic Review of Halls” in the West Wimmera Shire – there are 24 halls, varying owners and methods of management and a variety of conditions. Communities have changes in the past 20-30 years.

The primary aim of the Strategic Review of Halls is to inform Council on community expectations, aspirations and future service needs provided by halls in the short to medium term – 5- 10 years and beyond. The engagement with the community is a vital part of the hall review and will assist to inform Council with information, concerns and aspirations around the community halls. Sena Solutions has been engaged to deliver this review.

To date we have met with all operating hall committees within the West Wimmera Shire. We believe that the main towns in West Wimmera (Kaniva and Edenhope) needed a wider community engagement. Kaniva is operated by the shire and we have met with community members to obtain their feedback. We have met with the Edenhope hall committee and received their feedback, however believe that a wider community input, particularly with the current state of the hall was needed to give us the best information to the recommendations required for the review and to give council the best information for their decision making.

The Edenhope Mechanics Hall has been through a number of years of change and some turmoil.

In May 2004, following a low period where the then hall committee folded, Edenhope Progress Association formed a sub committee to manage the Edenhope Mechanics Hall. At that stage there was good support from community and the next five years saw improvements to the hall leading to where the hall is at today. This included:

- New kitchen.
- Heating and air conditioning
- Internal improvements
- Upgrade of all fire safety equipment.
- Disabled access ramp.
- Renovation/polish of main hall floor.

The hall usage increased over the three years following this work.

The hall is at a stage now that the integrity of the structure is of great concern. The hall committee identified this in 2010 and put a proposition to Council that the hall basically starts as a new project with a broader base as a multi purpose facility for the community. The Hall committee engaged with some community members and received some support for this.

The hall at this stage was under private ownership. The last remaining trustee was concerned as to the future of the hall if ownership did not transfer to local council. He believed that Council would be the best owner to ensure that it would be there for the future of the community.

The Council agreed to take over the ownership, not an easy task as the legal instruments in place to do this were quite obscure and bureaucratic. However this was finalised in 2012.

The transfer of ownership postponed any discussions regarding the future of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall.

After discussions with the Hall committee as to the best way forward, there was a section 86 committee formed as an instrument to manage the operation of the Edenhope Hall in 2013. A section 86 committee is an extension of council which has Terms of Reference which detail the requirements of the committee and its obligations.

To date this committee have not yet met and is still operating under the previously incorporated committee which is currently being wound up. The committee is frustrated and feel a lack of support from both Council and the Community and are reluctant to move forward with anything until their proposals have been considered.

Condition assessment has been sought by council in 2011 following a submission from the hall committee but was not acted on by Council due to the transfer of ownership. A revision of the Building condition assessment was re done and submitted to in January 2014.

The Building assessment report raised some major concerns with some immediate issues to ensure that the building is safe. This work has been carried out by Council. A second independent report has been sought and council is currently waiting on the final report – however the fact that major work needs to be undertaken and a substantial amount needs to be spent to restore the current building.

So here we are today to see what the wider community believe is the best plan for the Edenhope Hall:

Does the hall still suit the community needs, do we restore it? Do we rebuild it? Do we leave it as it is? Do we replace it with something that is more in line with the Edenhope community today and for the future? Or do we get rid of it altogether?

We have looked at all the halls in four contexts:

Conditional, Social, organisational and financial – and hope to get feed back which covers all these contexts from you tonight.

Feedback:

Conditional:

- Eyesore in the main street
- Building un-inviting
- Bad acoustics, difficult to set up
- Concern over western wall and stage area

Social

- Large space required on occasion
- Not meeting today's community needs

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

- Is not conducive in attracting use from groups such as youth, cultural groups
- Not being used as much as it used to due to condition
- Embarrassment if hosting groups

Organisational

- Shire should play a part in hall being a main town and a venue for larger functions
- Section 86 committee not functioning yet
- Concerns over current organisational arrangements – no longer hold the Old Time Dances at the hall because of this issue
- Community not connected with the hall – last consideration.

Financial

- Why is shire putting money into something that is old and tired and no longer fit for purpose? Why not rethink the hall and create something more suited to the community.

The Future

- Overwhelming desire for a new multi purpose community centre
- Moveable walls that can create a large space when required – fixed or moveable stage
- Edenhope needs a centre, a focus for the community
- A community centre will provide a home for different groups including youth who are currently not catered for.
- Activate the town, create a focus and activity centre
- Groups to be considered – art group, historical group, visitor information centre, library, youth, Department of Justice
- Hospital required meeting rooms and training area
- Possibility of space for adult education as they do in Kaniva
- Rationalise some of the other buildings in town – sell and include groups in centre (senior citizens, EBC)
- Think outside the square – include a deck to lake view as part of the venue – hired out for events/weddings
- Shared resources between groups, ensuring centre open, active and functional
- Community Gym??
- Community members happy to fundraise
- No more spend on old ugly building – plan for a new one

The overwhelming feedback from the insight meeting was that the current hall is no longer fit for purpose for the community.

The community feed back (as well as that from the Incorporated Hall Committee) was that the hall should be replaced with a new multi purpose building that can cater for both large and smaller functions and also provide meeting room/training space, a home for the arts and Tourism, the youth, seniors and perhaps the library. Moving the Library and maternal child health to a community centre would also free up space for Council who are struggling for room. Meeting rooms could also be used to hold court sessions (particularly of one room would have a side external entry/exit door). This area could also be used in a similar way that Link House in Kaniva runs its adult education courses. This would become a focus and a hub for Edenhope and rejuvenate the town centre and work to unite various factions of the community.

With modern architecture and moveable walls this could be accomplished.

The community would like to see some sort of rationalisation with the current buildings that are ageing and will need restoration/maintenance work in the future. The EBC would be better off being a retail/service space for local business. Sell buildings no longer required and put funding into the new centre.

Edenhope needs something to be proud of: Focus/activity/social interaction/shared resources.

Community would be keen to fundraise. Suggestions of “buy a brick” – name inscribed for prosperity or a “memorial wall” for those who have passed on from the community would assist. Funding from shared users (hospital, user groups) would assist and grants could be sought from other user group agencies such as the Justice Department, Wimmera Library Services, and grants around Youth, seniors and the Arts.

If council agree to support this option, organisation to be a joint venture between Council and a community steering group.

To the many volunteers who
keep the communities of
West Wimmera Shire vibrant,
to the Elected Members of
Council and to Council Staff
and other stakeholders who
have assisted us with this
review – thankyou so much
for giving us your time,
sharing your ideas and for
your valuable contributions.

Steve and Eveline Ord
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Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY		
COMMUNITY MANAGED (NOT COUNCIL OWNED) HALLS POLICY	Policy No:	
	Adopted by Council:	11 March 2010
	Next review date:	July 2019
Senior Manager:	Director Infrastructure, Development & Works	
Responsible Officer:	Assets & GIS Coordinator	
Functional Area:	Infrastructure, Development & Works	
Introduction & Background	<p>There are a number of Community Managed halls located throughout the Shire, which provide for a range of activities and facilitate the provision of services to local communities.</p> <p>Council understands that these Community Managed (Not Council Owned) halls serve as an important focal point for the local communities, providing a range of activities, opportunities and services in their locality.</p> <p>The West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to promoting community development within the Shire, and consequently, is committed to encouraging community participation and self-help in service provision.</p> <p>The West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to promoting community development, self-help in service provision, and improving opportunities for community participation within the Shire.</p> <p>To this extent, Council provides a number of Council Owned Community Halls to encourage and facilitate the provision of services, where such services and facilities help Council meet its goals and objectives.</p> <p>To this extent, Council may support Community Managed (Not Council Owned) Halls to encourage community participation and facilitate the provision of services, in accordance with Council's strategic objectives.</p>	
Purpose & Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To ensure that Community Managed (Not Council Owned) community halls, which have significant strategic importance in local community development and service provision, are supported so that they continue to operate, for the benefit of the community.To ensure that an equitable level of support to the community managed halls.	



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish clear Terms of Reference, defining roles and responsibilities for hall committees with respect to legislative and statutory responsibilities and establish guidelines and procedures consistent with legislative and statutory requirements
Scope	<p>This Community Managed (Not Council Owned) Halls Policy applies to the following Halls, whether on Crown Land and under a delegate Committee of Management, or privately owned and managed by the community, as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benayeo Hall - Bills Gully Hall - Chetwyn Hall - Connewirricoo Community Centre - Dergholm Soldiers Memorial Hall - Dinyarrak Hall - Dorodong Hall - Goroke Memorial Hall - Harrow Mechanics Institute - Langkoop Hall - Lawloit Hall - Minimay Soldier's Memorial hall - Peronne Memorial Hall - Poolaijelo Soldiers' Memorial hall - Telopea Downs Hall - Ullswater Memorial Hall
Policy Details	
1.	<p>Maintenance & Development Support</p> <p>Council may support the maintenance of Community Managed halls by the provision of administrative, technical and professional advice, so that they are to be fit for purpose, in accordance with Council's Strategic objectives.</p>
2.	<p>Utilisation</p> <p>Council will, as far as practicable, promote and utilise Community Managed Halls for meetings, services and events.</p>
3.	Insurance



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

	<p>Council may support the insurance costs for these Community Managed Halls</p> <p>Council may support Public Liability Insurance for the subject Community managed Halls.</p>
4.	<p>Advertising and Marketing Support</p> <p>Council may provide advertising/marketing support, as appropriate, for community halls to encourage usage to promote the use of Community Managed Halls within the Shire.</p>
5.	<p>Financial Support Committees of Management</p> <p>Council will provide advice and limited assistance (through its community assistance grants programs) to the Committees of Management, where applications meet funding criteria and where budgeted funds are available.</p> <p>Community Members, organisations or Crown Lands delegate Committee's of Management, responsible for the management or maintenance of the subject Community Managed Halls within the Shire, may apply for financial assistance under Council's Community Assistance Grants program.</p>
6.	<p>Policy Review period.</p> <p>This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, and then within 12 months of any Local Government election of each new Council, or more frequently as required by legislative changes or changes in circumstances.</p>

Policy Adopted:	Ordinary Meeting 25/11/99	Minute Book Page 6906	
Policy Reviewed:	Ordinary Meeting 05/06/03	Minute Book Page 11175	
	Ordinary Meeting 06/04/06	Minute Book Page 13682	
	Ordinary Meeting 11/03/10	Minute Book Page 17759	
	Ordinary Meeting July 2020	Draft for Adoption	



Strategic Review of Halls 2014



Prepared for
West Wimmera Shire
CM0392 - June 2014



West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Table of Contents

Executive Summary:	5
Introduction:.....	7
Purpose of the Project:.....	7
Strategic Context:	7
Methodology:	8
Demographics of West Wimmera Shire	9
Overview of West Wimmera Community Halls.....	10
Council's Current policy and role relating to Community Halls:	11
Location of West Wimmera Shire Community Halls	12
Grouping of halls	13
Issues - General:	15
Issues of individual halls	16
The Future:	20
Options and Recommendations	21
Option 1: Status Quo	21
Option 2: Managed portfolio.....	21
Option 3: Council Control over all Halls.....	22
Portfolio Strategies:.....	23
Organisational Strategies	23
Business Development Strategies:	23
Community strengthening strategies:.....	23
Hall Group and individual Hall recommendations:	25
GROUP A HALLS	25
GROUP B and C HALLS:	26
GROUP D HALLS.....	29
GROUP E HALLS	29
Funding opportunities	30
Appendix 1. Halls at a glance	31
Appendix 2. Community Engagement session – Edenhope Hall Insight Night	57

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Executive Summary:

In an effort to better understand the Community Halls throughout West Wimmera Shire, and to enable Council to better plan for the future, Council has commissioned Sena Solutions to provide a Strategic Review of Halls in the West Wimmera Shire.

Findings from this project and the options and subsequent recommendations made are based on reviews of Council documents, desktop research, interviews with Council Staff and Elected Members, representatives of other Government Agencies and most importantly an extensive community engagement with hall Committees and community members.

There were a number of themes that emerged from engaging with the various stakeholder groups. These Community Halls are more than just bricks and mortar – in many cases they are the only space that keeps the fabric of a community together. They enable the development of strong communities by providing a venue for activities that bring people together and provide them with the options for a rich community life. These places are also the gathering point in case of emergency or when a community needs to face loss and hardship together. Halls have been reviewed using four contexts to give a broader perspective; social, conditional, operational and financial.

Many of these halls exist because of the efforts of the hall communities. We have been astounded by the efforts volunteers of these communities go to that enable their Halls to exist and to continue to provide this important infrastructure. Chopping and selling fire wood, cropping, delivering community events, working bees, so many community sausage sizzles and of course community donations are only some of the ways these communities work to cover operational and maintenance costs and keep their halls alive.

There is no doubt that the ownership of Community Halls is secondary to their function. Varying ownerships, a variety of forms of Committees of Management, Council policies that have morphed over the last fifteen years and a lack of communication and information have resulted in confusion in relation to roles and responsibilities, insurances, cost reimbursement, and opportunities not only for the Hall Committees but also for Council and the West Wimmera Shire Council Staff.

There is money being spent on Community Halls, however this is ad hoc with no way to establish accurate spend or cost to Council of this group of buildings; there have been incidents of insurances being paid twice or reimbursed when already covered by policies provided by the DEPI.

Council has expressed a desire to recognise the vital role of community halls and move to a more consistent and supportive approach to managing these halls, and to support communities by facilitating any changes to hall status on behalf of the communities. The Elected members also seek an introduction of clear guidelines and support services for these committees.

We have provided three options for Councils consideration:

The options (detailed on page 21) are:

1. Option 1 - Maintain the status quo
2. Option 2 – Introduce a Managed Portfolio of Community Halls which facilitates asset management, supports organisational issues, assists with business development and delivers community strengthening strategies regardless of ownership
3. Option 3 – Council become the Committee of Management for all Halls which take on the responsibility of asset management, operation, maintenance and improvement of all halls.

We believe that Option 2 delivers the best outcomes for Council and for the Hall Communities. The recommendations that are proposed in this review work to address these outcomes in line with Council plans, and are broken down into four strategic areas; portfolio, organisational, business development and community strengthening strategies. The recommendations address the processes that will be needed to provide the support and management of the Community Halls portfolio.

From our investigations it has become apparent that there are a number of halls that need to be re assessed. The Edenhope Mechanics Hall needs serious consideration for renewal due to structural and functional issues; the community feedback is that it is no longer fit for purpose and a broader, multi purpose community centre would greatly benefit the community by bringing groups together, sharing resources, providing spaces for meetings, training and education, rationalising some of the older buildings in use and uniting the community with a focus point. There are a number of halls that we recommend to be decommissioned due to dereliction or are no longer supported by a community; Dinyarrak, Miga Lake and Ullswater and there are a few Community Halls that need to be monitored with the possibility of decommissioning or facilitating the Committee to disband depending on the next two years of operations, mainly due to ageing and declining populations in these communities. These halls include Gymbowen, Peronne and Dorodong. On the whole, most of the Halls that are the nucleus of small communities are in good condition – again through the efforts of hall committees and their volunteers.

With the development of a clear strategy and council policies and processes, West Wimmera Shire will move to more consistently support the maintenance and operations of Community Halls, regardless of ownership and confirm it's commitment to building strong communities and its vision that "West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer".



Ev and Steve Ord
Sena Solutions

Introduction:

Purpose of the Project:

There are 24 community halls throughout West Wimmera Shire. These halls have varying ownership, conditions and uses. The purpose of the Strategic Review of Halls in the West Wimmera Shire is to provide Council and the communities Council represents with information and data regarding service provision by halls, usage, community service needs and a comprehensive understanding of the operation and management of public halls within the West Wimmera Shire. This project also serves to provide Council with options and recommendations to enable the sustainable management of these halls for the next five to ten years and beyond, and provide the future strategic direction of these Halls.

Strategic Context:

This project is linked in many ways to West Wimmera Shires Council Plan and reflects the current vision that *“West Wimmera Shire delivers the very best experience and opportunity that rural living has to offer”*.

Through its Council Plan, West Wimmera Shire seeks to

- Provide an attractive community for local residents
- Increase community amenity - protect unique values of our rural communities:
- Provide an attractive community for local residents
- Protect natural amenity within townships
- Provide opportunities for engagement of Council by the community
- Support the significant volunteer contribution to the amenity and services in the community
- Enable Council to discuss changes to services with the community and other agencies

Themes from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan are reflected in West Wimmera Shire’s council plan including “a healthy and resilient environment” and “community well being”.

The Strategic Review of Halls addresses a number of the key objectives that the Council and the West Wimmera community have identified as priorities.

“Council planning for service delivery to its communities is focused on balancing the needs of the community with the availability of funds derived from government grants and the rate base. Council is committed to investigating innovative ways to maintain infrastructure and assets, to provide the range of services necessary to ensure community well-being, and provide opportunities for economic and community development”. (WWSC Plan 2013-2018)

Methodology:

To provide a Strategic Review of Halls that is true to Council Plan and provides real life options for Council consideration, Sena Solutions have engaged with all operating Public Hall management groups, members of the community, representatives from West Wimmera Shire Staff and Elected Members, and Representatives from State Government agencies (DEPI and RDV). Desk top research as well as communication with other Shires has provided relevant information about understanding Crown Land Reserve, alternative models of management and operation and possible funding opportunities.

When reviewing the Halls and identifying options, Sena Solutions looked at four contexts for each hall so that we can relay a well rounded and more informative review. These contexts are:

- Social context – what the hall means to the community and how the hall serves the community
- Financial context – management of costs, funding for maintenance and future works
- Physical Context – condition and location / demographic and geographic implications
- Operational context – management arrangements, booking systems, promotion etc. and the ability of the community to continue these functions

We have outlined the options that need to be considered for the future management of the Community Halls. We have used the information gathered from all the research and engagement sessions done and have developed strategic recommendations which are grouped into four areas:

- Portfolio strategies
- Organisational strategies
- Business development strategies
- Community strengthening strategies

And a number of Hall Group and Individual Hall recommendations that support the recommended option.

This forms the draft plan for the next 10 years to improve the outcomes achieved through the Community Halls in West Wimmera Shire.

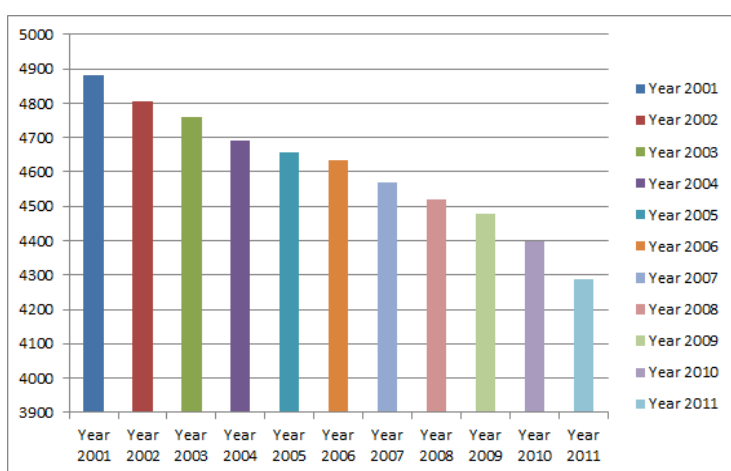
Demographics of West Wimmera Shire

Located four hundred kilometres west of Melbourne on the South Australian border, West Wimmera Shire offers a unique rural lifestyle for its residents. The municipality encompasses 9,108 square kilometres, including sections of the Little Desert National Park and Big Desert National Park, as well as over two thousand natural wetlands. The natural diversity of flora and fauna of the municipality is valued by locals and visitors alike.

The main economic driver of the municipality is agriculture, including broad acre grain, intensive animal, seed, sheep and wool production, as well as olive and timber. Agricultural businesses range from international corporate investments, remotely managed farms, large family enterprises with extensive diversification, traditional mixed farms and hobby farms.

The population of 4,521 (2011 ABS) enjoy a range of services, delivered through the main towns of Edenhope, Kaniva, Goroke and Harrow and Apsley. The population of the two larger towns is 976 for Edenhope and District and 1061 for Kaniva and district. The township of Goroke and district supports a population of approximately 600 whilst the smaller towns of Harrow and Apsley support a population of approx. 320 people. (2011 ABS statistics are taken from post code areas and include not only the township but the surrounding areas which are in the same postcode geographical area). The balance of the population is spread over a number of smaller communities which provide a focus for the agricultural community. The amenity of these communities is highly valued by residents, reflecting the natural environment and its proud agricultural heritage. Many of the Community halls in the West Wimmera are located in these smaller communities.

The municipality is transacted by two national highways (Western and Wimmera Highways respectively) and is well placed between the cities of Melbourne and Adelaide. An extensive network of arterial and local roads service towns and rural residents and businesses.



In common with many other rural municipalities, West Wimmera Shire is challenged by a continuing small decline in population. Changes in land use (timber production and the increasing use of technology in agriculture) are impacting on the local workforce needs, de-populating the rural areas. Council has identified the West Wimmera demographic profile as a key challenge for the community in planning for their future.

The table on the left shows the population decline from 2001 to 2011. The trending decline is expected to continue over the next 10 years and the challenge for council is to stop the decline and encourage our communities to grow against the trend.

Overview of West Wimmera Community Halls

There are 24 Halls in West Wimmera Shire and an additional 3 RSL halls. For the purpose of this study, we define Community Halls as:

- Based on a community of locality rather than interest or sector
- enables communities to meet together
- helps meet the social and recreation needs of the communities
- able to be used through hireage for meetings and social events e.g. birthdays, funerals
- a focus for a wide range of social, cultural, recreational and educational activities

Most of the community halls were built as far back as the 1940-50s – some earlier and were built to give the community a focus point and meeting place. The halls tend to be “one days horse ride” from the next.

The ownership of the halls varies through out the Shire – some owned by West Wimmera Shire Council, some are under private ownership and many are community halls that are built on Crown land Reserve.

Ownership is not a contributing factor when the service provisions of the halls are considered – communities believe that the purpose of the hall is far more important than who owns it.

Where this does come into play is in the operational side of the hall management and decommissioning of halls no longer required by the community.

Information gleaned from the DEPI regarding Community Halls built on Crown Land clarifies the different processes used for this portfolio and does effect the decision making processes.

- Community halls built on Crown Reserve Land have a committee of management that reports to the DEPI. The committee of management can be the Council (as per the Kaniva Hall) or a Crown Appointed Committee (as per the Peronne Hall).
- There are guidelines and responsibilities attached to Committees of Management for Halls built on Crown Reserve Land. In summary these responsibilities include the management, maintenance and improvement of an asset that is built on Crown land Reserve.
- There is no desire from the DEPI to close halls that are operating – “once it’s gone – it is gone and will not be replaced”
- As long as there is a committee to manage, maintain and improve the Community Hall, the DEPI intend to maintain the status quo.
- If a committee no longer requires the Hall or the community is no longer able to manage it – the committee must resign to the Crown and the DEPI will organise what happens to the infrastructure on the Crown Land Reserve. Where possible the buildings and assets are sold and the funds given back to the community.

Council's Current policy and role relating to Community Halls:

The West Wimmera Shire's current Community Halls Policy (policy last reviewed at the Ordinary meeting of Council on 11th March 2010) outlines Council's position with regard to the management and support of Community Halls.

The Policy states that "West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to promoting community development within the Shire and, consequently, is committed to encouraging community participation and self help service provision. To this extent, Council provides limited assistance to encourage and facilitate the provision of services, where such services and facilities help Council meet its goals and objectives".

The objectives contained in this policy are:

- 1. To ensure that community halls, which have significant strategic importance in community development and service provision, continue to operate for the benefit of the community*
- 2. To ensure that an equitable level of support to the community hall Committees of Management.*

The Policy includes actions on behalf of the Council:

- 1. Council will maintain and insure the halls owned by the Council*
- 2. Council will as a priority use its own halls*
- 3. Council will provide limited assistance to the halls of significant strategic importance to the community, which help meet Council's goals and objectives, this may include assistance with Public Liability Insurance where appropriate*
- 4. Council will provide advice and limited assistance (through its community assistance grants programs) to the Committees of Management, where applications meet funding criteria and where budgeted funds are available.*
- 5. Council will, where possible, use community halls as a preference to other venues, for its own activities/meetings as approved by the Chief Executive Officer.*
- 6. Council will provide advertising/marketing support, as appropriate, for community halls to encourage usage. (WWSC Minute book Page 17759)*

This policy was originally adopted in 1999 and has seen little change over the following fifteen years. There have, however, been new Council Plans set in place which outline Council's aspirations and actions for the next three years and which also reflect the themes from the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Strategic Plan.

As a result of engagement with Elected Members, Council has voiced a strong desire to recognise the vital role of community halls, to adopt a consistent, supportive and informative role and to support communities by facilitating any changes to hall status on behalf of the communities. The Elected members also sought an introduction of clear guidelines and support services for these committees.

Grouping of halls

For the purpose of this review Community halls have been grouped by the following criteria:

GROUP A COMMUNITY HALLS – Major Town Halls

These Halls are situated in the Major Towns in West Wimmera.

- Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups
- The catchment caters for people from beyond shire boundaries
- Funded by West Wimmera Shire

GROUP B COMMUNITY HALLS - Minor Town Halls

These Halls are situated in a town which has less population than the major towns, however still has alternative space for functions and have a township precinct. These towns have schools, churches, retail outlets, police presence, medical centres and support for the local communities

- Catering for larger events
- The catchment caters for people beyond town boundaries
- Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI

GROUP C COMMUNITY HALLS - Community Hubs

These Halls are often the only infrastructure in the community, usually situated near the CFA fire shed.

- The only meeting place in the community
- Keeping the community connected
- Often the gathering place in case of emergency
- Often used by CFA for HQ in case of fire event
- Used for meetings, community gatherings and private functions
- Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI

GROUP D COMMUNITY HALLS - Special Interest Halls

These halls hold special significance and draw a community from beyond the area that has a special interest in the Hall.

- Tourism or historic focus
- Catchment is beyond community/district and often shire boundaries

GROUP E COMMUNITY HALLS - Non operating halls

These halls are not being used

- Structural safety issues
- No community to support the hall

GROUP F HALLS – RSL Halls

These halls have a focus from an interest group (RSL Members)

- Funded through RSL membership – hired out occasionally to small groups to assist funding.

As these halls are based on an interest or sector, we have not included these halls into the Community Hall definition; however need to be taken into account when looking at the other infrastructure available for meetings in a particular area.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

The following table sets out the hall groupings and the ownership details of each Hall.

	Description of Hall grouping	Halls owned by West Wimmera Shire	Halls on Crown Land Reserve	Privately Owned Halls
GROUP A	Major Town Halls. These Halls are situated in the Major Towns in West Wimmera. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups The catchment caters for people from beyond shire boundaries Funded by West Wimmera Shire 	Edenhope Mechanics Hall	Kaniva Shire Hall	
GROUP B	Minor Town Halls These Halls are situated in a town which has less population than the major towns, however still has alternative space for functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering for larger events The catchment caters for people beyond town boundaries Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI 	Apsley Hall	Goroke Memorial Hall	Harrow Mechanics Institute
GROUP C	Community Hubs These Halls are the only infrastructure in the community (apart from CFA fire shed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only meeting place in the community Keeping the community connected Often the gathering place in case of emergency Often used by CFA for HQ in case of fire event Used for meetings, community gatherings and private functions Funded by committee of management efforts with minor assistance from WWSC/DEPI 	Charam Hall	Chetwynd Hall	Benayeo Hall
		Douglas Hall	Dorodong Hall	Dergholm
		Gymbowen Community Hall	Langkoop Hall	Soldiers Memorial hall
			Lawloit Hall	Connewirricoo
		Nurcoungh Memorial Hall	Minimay Soldiers Memorial Hall	Community Centre
			Peronne Memorial Hall	
			Poolaijelo Soldiers Memorial Hall	
			Telopea Downs Hall	
GROUP D	Special Interest Halls These halls hold special significance and draw a community from beyond the area who have a special interest in the Hall		Bills Gully Hall	
GROUP E	Non –operating halls These halls are not being used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural safety issues No community to support the hall 	Miga Lake Hall		Dinyarrak Hall
		Ullswater Hall		

Issues - General:

Following a comprehensive community engagement process with operating Hall committees and communities and also meetings with Council Staff, Elected Members and the DEPI, there have emerged a number of consistent issues.

- Regardless of ownership, community halls are vital to provide a gathering place for communities, providing a space for people to engage with each other. In many cases the community hall is the only infrastructure in the community.
- For health and well being, people need to stay connected to their community and the halls are a vehicle to allow this to happen.
- The effort of volunteers is crucial to the existence and continuation of community halls. Their fund raising efforts and the physical work they undertake provide the funds to operate manage and improve these community assets.
- There is no way in the current method of accounting to accurately look at the cost of an individual hall or the halls as a group. Budget items are spread right across various departments – Corporate and Community Services, Administration, Asset Management, Building Maintenance, Insurance and various services. For example, the Kaniva hall receives an income from hall hire; WWSC pays for operating costs, maintenance and insurances. Because the income and costs are spread over many various budget allocations, there is no way to ascertain what the management of the Kaniva hall actually costs the Shire.
- The reimbursement of costs by Council to hall committees is ad hoc and inequitable. There are duplications of public liability insurance payments, inequity in payments of Building insurance, and no plan for ongoing maintenance.
- The maintenance of various halls is largely dependant on “the squeaky wheel getting oiled”.
- Communication has been ad hoc. Some Community Halls have not had contact from Council for several years.
- Confusion around the roles and responsibilities of the various committees – there are halls which have more than one committee (usually the same people) which results in doubling up of expenses such as Public Liability Insurance.
- Confusion over Building insurance – if it is required and who carries the responsibility.
- Lack of knowledge of the grants process – when grants become available, where they can be accessed and how to put together an application.
- Lack of understanding of Council’s role and DEPI’s role in Managing community halls.
- Lack of knowledge about charging for Hall Hire and how to recover the associated costs with operating the hall.
- Concern over meeting costs that are not a part of the management or operation of the hall.

Issues of individual halls (directly from community engagement feedback sessions)

Community Halls		Issues for each hall obtained from Community Engagement Process
GROUP A HALLS	Edenhope Mechanics Hall	The community believe the Edenhope Mechanics hall needs to be replaced with a multi purpose Community centre that will cater to the wider community, rationalise some of the buildings and unite the community in an active hub. The current building is an “eye sore” and has some major structural and usability issues. The Hall is losing patronage due to not being user friendly and unwelcoming. The feedback from the community is that they would like to see the operation and management be shared between the Shire and the community – a booking system through Council Staff with a “friends of the Hall” type group to ensure community involvement.
	Kaniva Shire Hall	The Kaniva Shire hall is functioning well and serving the community. A recent review of rates has addressed hall hire charge issues that were of concern to regular users. The feedback from the community is that they would like to see the operation and management be shared between the Shire and the community – a booking system through Council Staff with a “friends of the Hall” type group to ensure community involvement.
GROUP B HALLS	Apsley Hall	Apsley hall is meeting the needs of the community. The Crown believes that they are the managing body for this hall although it is built on West Wimmera Shire land. Public liability is paid by both Crown and Shire – the Crown provides grant funding and the Shire provides maintenance as a Shire owned building. Assistance with marketing exposure would be beneficial.
	Goroke Memorial Hall	Goroke is meeting the needs of the community and has had the Goroke P-12 college adopt the hall as a part of their youth program. The main issues are around ownership and they have a desire for WWSC to take ownership of the hall. This is a community hall build on Crown land Reserve. Clarification of this and the role of the committee would alleviate their concerns. Assistance with grant funding would be of benefit.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

	Harrow Mechanics Institute	Harrow Mechanics Institute is functioning well; however they house the local library (Wimmera Library Services) and cover power costs when they are operating. They also cover the power costs for the public amenities and the external street lighting outside the amenities. These power costs are stretching the committee's budget. Assistance with grant funding applications and marketing would be beneficial.
GROUP CHALLS	Benayeo Hall	The Benayeo hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Charam Hall	The Charam hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Chetwynd Hall	The Telopea Downs hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability and the roles of the various committees is required. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Assistance is requested for the maintenance of the Public Amenities.
	Connewirricoo Community Centre	The Connewirricoo Community Centre is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Dergholm Soldiers Memorial hall	The Dergholm hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
	Dorodong Hall	The Dorodong hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Douglas Hall	The Douglas hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Gymbowen Community Hall	The Gymbowen hall currently has maintenance work being carried out and is not operating. This will resume when the work has been completed. The Hall is available to the community when required. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Langkoop Hall	The Langkoop hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Assistance is requested for the maintenance of the Public Amenities.
Lawloit Hall	The Lawloit hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Minimay Soldiers Memorial Hall	The Minimay hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability and what is required of the committee would be helpful. Assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.
Nurcoungh Memorial Hall	The Nurcoungh hall is meeting the needs of the community. Continued help with Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Improved directional signage would also help
Peronne Memorial Hall	The Peronne hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

	Poolaijelo Soldiers Memorial Hall	<p>address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.</p> <p>The Poolaijelo hall is meeting the needs of the community. Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. Rear steps are becoming a risk area and need to be addressed</p>
	Telopea Downs Hall	<p>The Telopea Downs hall is meeting the needs of the community.</p> <p>Assistance with understanding Public liability and the roles of the various committees is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial.</p>
GROUP D HALLS	Bills Gully Hall	<p>The Bills Gully hall is operating well.</p> <p>Assistance with understanding Public liability is required and assistance with grant funding notification and applications to address major maintenance work would be beneficial. Exposure of the hall to prospective hirers would be beneficial. There are concerns over the type of amenities (long drop) and that the building does not meet regulations and some assistance in keeping the historical aspect of the hall intact whilst improving it's function would be of assistance.</p>
GROUP E HALLS	Dinyarrak Hall	The Dinyarrak hall is not fit for use. It is derelict.
	Miga Lake Hall	The Miga Lake hall is no longer supported by a community. There is no access or committee to manage the hall.
	Ullswater Hall	The Ullswater Hall has serious safety issues and we believe that this is no longer fit for public use. Many attempts have been made to contact the committee for feed back in various forms with no success. There is no power to the hall at present, dangerous back landing with no steps, no internal lining and structurally suspect.

The Future:

As per the feedback from West Wimmera Shire Council, Council has a desire to facilitate the continuing provision of Community Halls in the West Wimmera Shire in line with the Council Plan. Equally, Council sees volunteer community input as essential not only to the physical administration of Community Halls, but also their maintenance and promotion as valuable meeting places in local communities. In acknowledging an ongoing involvement with community hall facilities, Council wishes to develop a policy that will help Council to meet the needs of a range of communities in the West Wimmera and to balance various needs in a transparent and systematic way.

Council wishes to ensure:

- A consistent approach to community halls by Council
- The clear identification of rolls and responsibilities of both Council and Hall Committees
- The creation and maintenance of clear, open and regular communication channels
- An increased sense of purpose of community involvement of community halls
- Establishing a clear process to manage the change in hall status – whether to remove a hall from the hall portfolio, up grade or re develop an existing hall.

With the development of this strategy, Council will move to more consistently support the operations and maintenance of community halls – regardless of ownership. Council believes that these facilities play a crucial community building role in West Wimmera and that the ownership of the facilities is secondary to their existence and function.

In response to this review, we have developed options that address current issues and improve the performance of community halls across social, physical, operational and financial contexts – both Shire wide and on a hall by hall level.

Options and Recommendations

Option 1: Status Quo

Not recommended.

Do nothing and leave the management of the community halls as is. Council continue to support Council owned halls through the current asset management system. Other halls are left to the community to manage. Remove group E halls that are privately owned from the Community Halls List as these are no longer active.

This option gives little support for Committees who manage Community Halls on Crown Land Reserve or on private land. These committees will need to continue to manage their own community asset. This option does not meet the desires that Council has expressed during the engagement session with Elected Members as a part of this review or the aspirations of Council expressed in the Council Plan.

Option 2: Managed portfolio

Recommended

Manage the Community Halls as a portfolio regardless of ownership. Leave the ownership as it is and continue to manage the Council owned Halls through the Council Asset Management system on a lifecycle basis. Group A Halls to be managed and operated by the Shire (income and costs to be managed as a cost centre), Group B, C and D halls operated and managed by committees (either incorporated or Crown appointed), operating costs, minor maintenance and improvement costs to be managed by committees through income from hall hire, fund raising and funding opportunities. Group E halls need to be decommissioned. Facilitate the asset management on behalf of the Committees of Management who manage halls on Crown Reserve Land or on privately owned land on behalf of the communities: this would also be on a lifecycle basis. Provide a managed communication/support system for community halls.

This option provides the consistency and open communication that Council is seeking and recognises the work that volunteers do to ensure the service delivery of their Community Halls. It also supports the asset management of these halls whilst maintaining the funding channels with the DEPI and ensures that Community Halls remain a safe public place.

This option ensures that Council will facilitate the renewal, decommissioning and change of status of Community Halls through sound asset management systems, lifecycle planning and community engagement and support.

Option 3: Council Control over all Halls

Not Recommended

Council become the Committee of Management for all Halls – Council is already COM for Kaniva Shire Hall. This option will have a cost associated as Council will be responsible for the operation, management and improvement for all Halls within the Shire. All halls would need to be managed through the Council Asset Management system and halls could be operated by Council appointed committees.

Although giving Council more choices as to the operation, management and maintenance of these Halls, this option does not provide for the involvement of community in the operation, management and improvement of Community Halls. This will cost shift all responsibility onto the Council leaving little incentive for communities to take ownership of their own community halls and closes the door for DEPI and philanthropic funding organisations to support a large sector of the Community Halls.

After following our methodology which includes research and input and feed back from:

- Council Staff
- Elected members of West Wimmera Shire
- Operating Hall Committees
- Representatives from the wider communities of Kaniva and Edenhope
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Regional Development Victoria

We strongly recommend option 2 as being the way forward to manage the portfolio of Community Halls in West Wimmera Shire. This option delivers on the Council Plan; it supports West Wimmera Shire communities and allows for changes within the Hall Portfolio.

The strategies for consideration to improve the outcomes achieved through Councils community halls over the next 10 years have then been developed in four areas:

1. Portfolio strategies – Council will have a customer focused portfolio of well maintained, well managed halls supported by Council and the local community
2. Organisational strategies – Community Halls will operate with clear, relevant and consistent guidelines which are updated when necessary and provide a clear direction for Committees, Committees of Management and the Council for the operation of the Community Halls in West Wimmera Shire
3. Business development strategies – Council will be confident its halls achieve maximum value through strong support in marketing and a commitment to customer service.
4. Community strengthening strategies – The Community Halls portfolio will be an important component of the tools Council has to build strong communities.

Portfolio Strategies:

The management of community halls needs to be addressed at a Council administrative level. As Community Halls have specific purpose and requirements, these assets, regardless of ownership should be managed in one portfolio. This portfolio should have a policy that relates directly to the current Council Plan and should be the nucleus for all Councils activities relating to community halls. Ideally the portfolio should sit in one department (Department of Corporate and Community Services) and have a qualified and capable staff member responsible for the administration of that portfolio. This would address the issue of communication and help build relationships, not only with Hall Committees and Committees of Management but also the other stake holders such as internal departments at West Wimmera Shire, the DEPI and other avenues of grant funding opportunities.

There is a need for a more responsive approach to information requests, maintenance issues and a more entrepreneurial approach to managing the business of the halls.

Councils Asset Management Policy manages the assets of West Wimmera Shire on behalf of the community to deliver present and future service needs. Asset Management decisions will require Council to take a lifecycle approach to asset management decisions of the Hall Portfolio. These decisions will require consideration of maintenance, operation, renewal and/or disposal of assets over time, based on sound demand planning and clarity around desired service levels.

Organisational Strategies

With the creation and implementation of a clear set of guidelines for the management and operation of halls, much of the confusion that exists would be dealt with. This could include a set of guidelines for different types of committees which assist them to understand their roles in managing and operating community halls and the role Council plays. These guidelines would clearly detail requirements, responsibilities and processes. Clear guidelines would also ensure an equitable approach to the management of this portfolio.

Business Development Strategies:

Community Halls are by their nature centres with a social rather than a business orientation. However there are opportunities to increase usage of Halls and assist those managing the halls increase revenue through assistance with advertising and marketing. Exposure on Councils web site is a cost effective way to assist in promoting community halls within the Shire. Support from Council staff to assist in planning the business of the halls would further strengthen the financial stability of individual halls by ensuring usage.

Community strengthening strategies:

The Halls in West Wimmera Shire have been “passive” enablers for community development. These Halls can be better utilised by Council to assist with strengthening communities. A stronger connection between Council staff and the Hall communities will enable the Halls to be utilised as a tool to keep people connected, welcome and involve new comers into communities and provide the social fabric that keeps small communities together.

In summary – the halls would come under one portfolio that falls into the Department of Corporate and Community Services. There would be a capable staff member who has this portfolio allocated as part of the job description. That Staff member would liaise with other internal stakeholders (Department of Infrastructure and Works – asset manager and maintenance, finance, I.T. and community development), and would be the contact for all Hall committees, would manage the relationship with DEPI, would support, assist and inform Hall Committees with business plans and ideas, funding opportunities and promotional activities.

Figure 1



Hall Group and individual Hall recommendations:

These recommendations outline the changes required for OPTION 2 to meet the strategic objectives of Council. Each hall group has a number of recommendations as well as proposed futures for individual halls.

GROUP A HALLS

These halls are located in the two main towns in the West Wimmera along with the Shire offices. Their usage is higher than most of the other halls and have the ability to increase usage in the future. The following changes are recommended:

1. Both Shire Halls be managed by the Shire through a booking system which can be managed through the Shire email system – allowing transparent usage records and ease of use between Council Staff.
2. Halls be set up as a cost centre where records will provide a detailed picture of what the hall is costing the Shire to operate and maintain.
3. Halls to be maintained through the Council Asset Management Policy including an ongoing maintenance schedule to ensure ongoing life cycle management.
4. Halls to have a business plan to ensure usage – including promotional and financial factors.
5. A “Friends of the Hall” group be formed in each community as an advisory group to assist Council with promotion and maintain connection between the community and the Shire Halls.
6. Halls to be included on the “Halls in West Wimmera” page of the West Wimmera Shire Web Site including hall details and contact details for booking purposes.

	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
GROUP A	Edenhope Mechanics Hall	Needs significant investment in renewal – some urgent maintenance underway. Significant issues impairing usage. Good location in Community Precinct. Hall does not currently meet the needs of the community.	Investigate redevelopment based on community hub concept, rationalising some of the other infrastructure. Construct a project plan including concept design and funding requirements. Form a community steering committee to guide the project. Incorporate the future of the hall into planning for a community precinct. Manage as a business cost centre with business planning and cost neutral operational outcomes	Short Term – immediately Short term – within two years Medium to long term
	Kaniva Shire Hall	Requires small - medium investment in heating and cooling systems and upgrade of kitchen.	Maintain as is. Possible inclusion of wet bar to assist in a wider hire market. Unused area on the second level to be utilised by Council/Community groups. Market historical significance.	Short Term- within two years

GROUP B and C HALLS:

These Halls are located in the minor towns with in a precinct and communities where they are the community hub and the only meeting place available for connecting people to the wider community. These halls are operated by committees of management or incorporated committees depending on the ownership status. The following changes are recommended:

7. Council recognises these halls as important community assets and recognises it's role in ensuring their ongoing viability
8. Council supports a council/community partnership approach to the community halls. Council will assist with exterior and internal health and safety related maintenance whilst the committees will be responsible for minor maintenance and operation of the halls
9. That a comprehensive inspection be carried out on all 18 group B and C halls by Council Asset Management Staff and Hall Committee representatives
10. That this information be used to develop a five-ten year work plan for community hall maintenance that will include any actions required by council (e.g. frequency of inspections)
11. That a Community Hall Maintenance fund is established to assist community hall committees with exterior and interior health and safety related maintenance. Community Hall Management Committees will be able to apply for funding in writing and applications considered on an annual basis according to priorities set by the five to ten year work plan. This ensures that the futures of the halls are driven by the community. This fund is not intended to provide funding for capital works or acquisitions, the costs of facility activities or operational/running costs and needs to be included in future budgets.
12. That Council provide public liability insurance to committee members and volunteers of Council owned and privately owned Community Halls and communicate with Crown appointed Committees of Management regarding the public liability insurance that is provided by the DEPI.
13. That Council Staff investigate cost effective Building Insurance options for Community Halls
14. That an annual grant be included in the West Wimmera Shire Community Grants for improvements to Community Halls to encourage and increase usage. As many of the funds raised by hall committees go to operational costs, the grant needs to be constructed in such a way that in-kind labour will form a part of the grant application.
15. That Council Staff liaise with DEPI to bring issues and opportunities related to Community Halls built on Crown Land Reserve to Council for further consideration
16. That public information about Community Halls be added to Councils website
17. That Council develop a resource guide for Hall committees
18. That Council communicate on a regular bases with Hall Committees – sharing information about issues, funding opportunities and how the committees are managing their operations.
19. That Council facilitate a change of hall status on behalf of a community.

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

GROUP B AND C HALLS	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
	Apsley Hall	Hall operating well. Ownership needs to be sorted out with DEPI as currently Shire and DEPI are paying public liability insurance and are providing funding for maintenance and upgrading.	Maintain as is. Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Goroke Memorial Hall	Hall operating well – clarification regarding community hall on Crown land reserve. Minor work to be done on disabled access to kitchen/supper room area.	Maintain as is. Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term-
	Harrow Mechanics Institute	Hall operating well – Needs to have payment of Council services sorted out as well as costs incurred by Wimmera Library Services	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Painting of interior block walls	Short Term Medium term 2-5 years
	Benayeo Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Charam Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Chetwynd Hall	Community Hub Clarification regarding community hall on Crown land reserve.	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Connewirricoo Community Centre	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Dergholm Soldiers Memorial hall	Community Hub Some issues with front wall damage.	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
	Dorodong Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Revise hall in medium term with option to assist committee to decommission through DEPI if committee desires	Short Term Medium to long term (5-10 years)

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

Douglas Hall	Community Hub Needs minor roof repair work	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short term
Gymbowen Community Hall	Community Hall – currently having minor renovation work done on interior – low usage.	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Revise hall in medium term with option to decommission if usage does not improve	Short term Medium term 2-5 years
Langkoop Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Lawloit Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Minimay Soldiers Memorial Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Nurcoungh Memorial Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Peronne Memorial Hall	Community Hub	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities Revise hall in medium term with option to assist committee to decommission through DEPI if committee desires	Short Term Medium term 2-5 years
Poolaijelo Soldiers Memorial Hall	Community Hub Requires maintenance on rear steps that are coming away from the main building	Maintain as is Repair work on steps (safety issue) Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term
Telopea Downs Hall	Community Hub Clarification regarding community hall on Crown land reserve/Inc. Committee	Maintain as is Promote hall usage via Council web site Advise of funding opportunities	Short Term

GROUP D HALLS

This hall is a special interest hall with historical significance and should be placed in a different category. The following changes are recommended

20. This hall be placed under the portfolio of Tourism and the hall be treated as an attraction to the Shire, managed by the current Committee of Management
21. That point 6 through to 13 from the GROUP B and C halls be included in this recommendation
22. That Council involve this hall in heritage studies and policies

	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
GROUP D	Bills Gully Hall	Hall operating well.	Maintain as is, however	Short Term
		The main part of this hall is the historical significance. It is a hall managed by a special interest group. The state of the building is satisfactory but it is rustic and renewal would destroy the significance and interest in the hall	consider re-purpose the hall and remove from community hall portfolio. Promote hall usage via Council web site and involve West Wimmera Tourism in promotional activities Advise of funding opportunities Investigate links to Heritage portfolios and opportunities	Medium to long term (2-10 years)

GROUP E HALLS

These halls are not operating and have serious structural and operational issues.

The following changes are recommended

23. These halls be removed from the Community Hall portfolio
24. Where necessary, Council facilitate the winding up of incorporated bodies
25. Council liaise with halls that are privately owned to remove from the Halls Portfolio
26. Council ensure that council owned halls that are unsafe are cordoned off from potential visitors to the site or passers by
27. Council dispose of Council owned halls and property that is no longer required and direct any funds into the Community Hall Maintenance fund as per recommendation 5

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

GROUP E HALLS	Hall	Current Status	Proposed Future	Timeframe
	Dinyarrak Hall	Derelict, not fit for habitation	Remove from Community Hall Portfolio	Short Term
	Miga Lake Hall	No access, No committee, non operational	Remove from Community Hall Portfolio Dispose of property	Short – medium term
	Ullswater Hall	No access, Health and safety issues, structurally suspect, currently non operational	CLOSE TO PUBLIC ACCESS Remove from Community hall portfolio Liaise with the committee and facilitate decommissioning Dispose of property	Short term Short – medium Term

Funding opportunities

Edenhope Renewal - There are funding opportunities available to assist with the renewal of the Edenhope Hall. RDV and RDA both have opportunities into which this project would fit. This project could also be under a partnership arrangement with some of the other groups interested in being involved with a Community Hub concept which opens the doors to further funding opportunities. The community of Edenhope have also indicated that they would commit to fund-raising.

DEPI – Although the current funding the DEPI had available for Community Halls on Crown Land Reserve has been allocated for this financial year, there will be other opportunities available in the future. A strong relationship between Council, Committees of Management and the DEPI will ensure that these funding opportunities are utilised when they become available.

FRRR – Foundation of Regional and Rural Renewal

Grants up to \$5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities with populations of 10,000 or less that live in small rural and remote locations in Australia.

The program funds a wide range of projects such as:

- Repair and maintenance of small to mid-scale community infrastructure, such as public halls, schools and recreation reserves.
- Providing communications equipment and enhancing infrastructure and systems, especially for emergency services organisations.
- Community events and capacity building, such as volunteer training, support and development

Appendix 1. Halls at a glance

The “Halls at a glance” pages are a summary of the halls and contain information gleaned from community engagement sessions.

Apsley Community Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community venue •Meeting place for regular groups and for larger private and community functions •Approximately 15 function per year •regular groups - monthly market •Private functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •very Good condition •Grant recieved for work to upgrade kitchen •WWSC do much of the maintenance work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hall owned by WWSC / land adjacent is crown land •Operated by an incorporated committee and by Crown appointed committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is in a good financial state, meeting costs •Many Maintenance and some services paid for by WWSC

Location:



Wallace Street, Apsley Victoria

Context:

- In a community precinct along with football club, RSL Hall, Primary school, limited business (Post office, Hotel and General Store opening in near future) Churches and recreational parks
- Hall services district catchment as an option to cater for larger functions
- Good access by car, located on the Wimmera Highway
- Population decline over the past 20 years

Description

- Brick building in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with separate supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Benayeo Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular BBQ functions (12 p/a) for community, CFA meetings •Catering for private functions •gathering place during emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on private land •Operated by an incorporated committee (Benayeo Hall Inc) •Committee working well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees - CFA donations •Rely on grants for major projects •Theft/security an issue for hall and CFA shed

Location:



Benayeo Road, Benayeo

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Benayeo (plus fire shed situated on same allotment)
- Hall services a community of approx. 50 people from the Benayeo, Neuarpurr district – a community hub and important gathering space
- Reasonable access by car, well fenced

Description

- Colour Bond / wood construction in good condition
- Out door BBQ area under cover
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Bills Gully Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Special interest place •Meeting place for Committee and welfare group monthly meetings. •Catering for private functions •Appeals to and is hired out by groups looking for a historical. out of the way place •Camping encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good but rustic condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •committee attempting to retain the historical aspect •Good kitchen facilities •Long drop toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve (Built 1913) •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management •Funds raised by a welfare group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects •recently recieved a grant from DEPI to assist with guttering repairs

Location:



Bills Gully Road, Miram South

Context:

- In a quiet bush setting with historical significance. Surrounded by a beautiful bush setting
- Hall services a wide catchment for those looking for an out of the way, quiet place in a rustic setting.
- Reasonable access by car – poorly signed from Western Highway
- More of a tourist attraction than a community hub

Description

- Wood and corrugated iron building on bush stumps
- Memorabilia and amazing wooden floors
- Out door areas and long drop toilets
- Standard open hall configuration with wood fire
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Charam Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community, Tennis club, and CFA •approx. 24 functions per year incl regular users •Catering for private functions •serves as the club rooms for the adjacent tennis courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers with assistance from WW Shire •Good kitchen facilities •External shade area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on West Wimmera Shire land •Operated by the Charam Tennis Club Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Charam Wombelano Road, Charam

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Charam with adjacent tennis courts
- Hall services a community of approx. 20 people from the Charam district
- An important community hub and used predominantly by the Tennis Club which caters for players from the district and Edenhope/Apsley areas
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside Shaded area for BBQ's

Chetwynd Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used approx. 3 times per month including regular groups: DEPI, CFA, Land Care and community BBQ's •Catering for private functions •historical significance •home for the district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown Appointed Committee and an incorporated committee •Confusion around committee roles and responsibilities (Crown or incorporated?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is just meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •WWSC pay for building insurance •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Casterton Edenhope Road, Chetwynd

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Chetwynd
- Hall services a small community from the Chetwynd area and draws visitors from further afield due to historic nature
- An important community hub and used to bring the surrounding district together.
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Hall is timber construction and school house is of weather board construction
- Standard open hall configuration - separate school house
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside Shaded area for BBQ'
- External amenities also used by passing traffic

Connewirricoo Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community, CFA, Tennis club •approx. 24 functions per year •Catering for private functions •camping facilities and dormitory facilities to cater for group accommodation •bush setting to attract tourist type groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Excellent kitchen facilities •Dormitory set up for accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on private land •Operated by an incorporated committee •Committee working well - very active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Kadnook Connewirricoo Road, Connewirricoo

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Connewirricoo, adjacent tennis courts and fire shed
- Hall services a community of approx. 80-100 people from the Connewirricoo-Harrow district
- An important community hub
- Tourist/camping attraction for groups
- Reasonable access by car, well fenced

Description

- Cement sheet/wood construction in very good condition
- Out door BBQ area under cover with weather blinds
- Two room hall configuration
- Excellent kitchen and servery
- Dormitory accommodation

Dergholm and District Soldiers Memorial Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used approx. 12 times per year: regular groups include CFA, Land Care and community functions •Catering for private functions •historical "soldiers" significance •home for the district memorabilia - Soldiers and community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities •separate supper room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Private land •Operated by an incorporated Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is just meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Casterton-Apsley Road, Dergholm

Context:

- In a rural setting , other business includes the Local Hotel
- Hall services a small community from Dergholm and surrounds of approx 50 people
- An important community hub and used to bring the surrounding district together.
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Hall is block construction and has had some structural issues
- Standard open hall configuration with stage - separate supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Dinyarrak hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No longer being used by community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No longer fit for use•Building has deteriorated to a point where it is not salvageable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Hall is privately owned on private land•No longer being operated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Not Applicable

Location:



Dinyarrak

Context:

- Located in the middle of farm land
- Hall no longer services a community

Description

- Corrugated iron on wood construction which is falling down
- No roof. Area now fenced off.

Dorodong - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •Camping encouraged •Hired out for private functions •Less than 6 times per year including occasional meeting of CFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee •Good kitchen facilities being upgraded (DEPI Grant) •Some minor works to be done on window frames 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management •Committee keen to keep the hall operating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects •Looking to expand to events where people can BBQ and camp

Location:



Dorodong Road, Dorodong

Context:

- In a quiet bush setting surrounded by State Park
- Hall services a small community which has declined due to the blue gums
- Reasonable access by car
- This is the only infrastructure (apart from the fire shed) in Dorodong where the committee meet

Description

- Block construction, very solid and in good condition
- Serviceable kitchen which is being upgraded
- Standard open hall configuration

Douglas Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community, Tennis club, ram sales and committee meetings •approx. 15 functions per year •Catering for private functions - funerals, birthdays, weddings, reunions •Displays memorabilia of the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Excellent kitchen facilities •New wood fire installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on West Wimmera Shire land •Operated by an incorporated committee •Committee working well - very active and passionate about their hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects •Community are very supportive with donations

Location:



Harrow Clear lake Road, Douglas

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Douglas, adjacent tennis courts and fire shed
- Hall services a community of approx. 100 people from a district stretching from Douglas through to Miga Lake
- An important community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with additional supper room with wood fire
- Excellent kitchen and servery

Edenhope Mechanics hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Major town hall •Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups •Private functions •Used by College, Shire, Sporting clubs for large events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •poor condition and losing events due to the condition •WWSC have done some work to ensure the safety of hall users and by standers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Hall owned by West Wimmera Shire •Section 86 committee in place but have not met - currently being managed by incorporated committee •Committee is frustrated due to condition and lack of council /community support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All income goes to the incorporated committee •WWSC pay for all costs •Income through hall hire for private functions

Location:



Elizabeth Street, Edenhope

Edenhope Hall 2013

Hall was booked for 60 events (taken from diary) this included 6 line dancing sessions, 17 indoor bowls bookings, 6 private bookings, 2 West Wimmera Shire bookings, 2 Edenhope College Bookings, 13 Debutante practice and ball bookings.

The balances of the bookings are a combination of Lions club, hall committee meetings, Girl Guide Group, DEPI meeting and venue for elections.

Context:

- In a community precinct along with sporting clubs, Schools, Hospital, Medical centre, local business and recreational areas/tourist areas
- The hall services a catchment that goes beyond the Shire boundaries, catering for large events.
- Good access by car and parking available.

Description

- Timber building in poor condition – structural and internal usage issues
- Standard open hall configuration with stage and separate supper room
- Very Good Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Entry foyer, internal amenities

Goroke Memorial hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community venue •Meeting place for regular groups and for larger private and community functions •used on average 17 times per year •regular groups •Private functions •Used by College for large events •Hall is used to display items of historic significance to the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •very Good condition •WWSC have assisted with some maintenance work in the past •The college have adopted the hall and work along side the committee to keep clean and maintained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community hall built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by Crown appointed committee •Committee is passionate about their Hall and work hard to maintain its good condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is in a good financial state, meeting costs •WWSC pay for Public Liability (as well as the DEPI) •Community support for hall through donations from service clubs •Income through hall hire for private functions

Location:



Main Street, Goroke

Context:

- In a community precinct along with sporting clubs, P-12 College, Medical centre, local business and recreational areas
- Hall services district catchment and serves to cater for larger functions as well as regular meetings
- Good access by car

Description

- Brick building in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage and separate supper room
- Good Serviceable kitchen and servery

Gymbowen Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community use •used occasionally - a few times per year •Catering for private functions •Gathering point in case of emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •average condition - work currently being done on Windows •Maintained through efforts of committee West Wimmera Shire Council •Amenities average (need clean up) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •West Wimmera Shire Building •Operated by an incorporated Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs comfortably through hall hire fees •Council pays Public liability •Committee have installed Solar Panels - no power costs •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Hennessey's Road, Gymbowen

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only operating infrastructure in Gymbowen
- Hall is available to the surrounding community
- Good access by car – situated just off the main road

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in average condition
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside amenities

Harrow Mechanics Institute Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community venue •Meeting place for regular groups and for larger private and community functions •At least 14 function per year •regular users including Bush Nursing Hospital •Private functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •very Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee, volunteers and local trades people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Privately Owned by Committee of Management •Operated by an incorporated committee with good support from local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is in a good financial state, meeting costs •also covering power costs for library, public amenities and external street lighting •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Blair Street, Harrow

Context:

- In a community precinct with historical significance along with football club, RSL Hall, Bush Nursing Hospital, Local trade, Tourist attractions (Interpretative Cricket centre, river and water hole) Churches and recreational and camping parks
- Hall services district catchment as an option to cater for larger functions
- Good access by car

Description

- Brick building in very good condition
- Adjoining land to be developed with the hall
- Contains library – used as separate meeting room
- Standard open hall configuration with wet bar
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Kaniva Shire Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Major town hall •Catering for large events and regular meeting place for community groups •Private functions - Birthdays, weddings, funerals. •Used by College, Shire, Sporting clubs for large events, yoga group, CFA and community Group Hire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition - beautiful hall with feature ceilings •Historic building •Upstairs area not currently utilised •Needs work with heating and cooling/ventilation systems •Kitchen requires upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hall on Crown Land Reserve West Wimmera Shire are the Committee of Management •Managed by Shire - Kaniva Council Office •Booking system needs to be upgraded and more informative •Community feel detached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Managed, operated and maintained through WWSC budget •WWSC pay for all costs •Income through hall hire for private functions to WWSC •Not a cost centre so cannot provide cost to WWSC - spread through budget items.

Location:



Baker Street, Kaniva

Kaniva Hall Usage: 2013

Hall was booked for 99 events (taken from diary) plus the lions group meet every two weeks. This includes 55 bookings for the yoga group, 5 funerals, 6 private functions, 9 West Wimmera Shire Bookings, College reunion, Bridal Display, College Presentation, and Christmas Carols

The balances of the bookings are a combination of emergency management meetings, playgroup, and Training and committee meetings.

Context:

- In a community precinct along with sporting clubs, Schools, Medical centre, local business, churches and recreational areas/tourist areas
- The hall services a catchment that goes beyond the Shire boundaries, catering for large events.
- Good access by car and parking available.

Description

- Historic brick building in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage and separate supper room
- Good Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Upstairs rooms currently not used
- Entry foyer, internal amenities

Langkoop Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular users - community BBQ every 2nd week, Table tennis and CFA meetings •Catering for private functions - funerals, birthdays, weddings, reunions •Assembly point in cases of emergency •Public toilets available to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building Crown Land Reserve •Operated by Crown appointed committee for management •Committee working well - very active and passionate about their hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants from DEPI for major projects - recently received funding from DEPI to assist with roof repairs

Location:



Apsley Langkoop Road, Langkoop

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Langkoop
- Hall services a community of approx. 80 people from Langkoop and surrounding districts
- An important community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with additional supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- External amenities that are used as public amenities by travellers

Lawloit Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used approx. for 20 functions/ meetings per year incl regular users •Catering for private functions •Annual bush concert •home for the district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities •External covered area •very well presented supper room with wood fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown Appointed Committee •Committee are active and working well together and do most of the maintenance that is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs comfortably through fund raising at their larger events and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Lawloit Road, Lawloit

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only community infrastructure in Lawloit
- Hall services a small community from the Lawloit through to Nhill districts
- An important community hub and used to bring the surrounding district together.
- Reasonable access by car – not well signed.

Description

- Wood construction in very good condition
- Standard open hall configuration - separate supper room with wood fire
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside Shaded area for BBQ's
- Well fenced

Miga Lake Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No longer being used by community•No keys available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•In fair condition•Building has been inspected externally only as there is no access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Hall is owned by West Wimmera Shire Council•There is no committee of management or any formal or informal committee managing the hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Not Applicable

Location:



Nhill Harrow Road, Miga Lake

Context:

- Located in the middle of farm land
- Hall no longer services a community

Description

- Corrugated iron and wooden building in fair condition
- Easily accessible by road
- No longer being used – surrounding community use the Douglas hall

Minimay Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •Used approximately once per month •Catering formal private and community functions •Assembly point in cases of emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very Good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •kitchen facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building Crown Land Reserve •Operated by Crown appointed committee of management who manage the complete reserve of which the hall is a part - informal functions (private and community) are held at the football reserve rooms and BBQ area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs and are in a good financial position •Rely on grants from DEPI for major projects •Financial load spread accross the whole of the Crown land reserve area

Location:



Minimay Road, Minimay

Context:

- In a rural setting, other infrastructure includes the recreation reserve buildings, the General store and the fire shed.
- Hall services a community of approx. 100 people from the surrounding districts
- The whole reserve is an important community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Fibro cement construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration
- Large serviceable kitchen and servery
- External amenities

Nurcoun Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community hub •regular users include indoor bowls, church •Used approx. 15 times per year •Catering for private functions •Used for control centre in fire events •Housing memorabilia incl. WW1 honour rolls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •good condition and well maintained by members of the committee •Maintained through efforts of committee West Wimmera Shire Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •West Wimmera Shire Building •Operated by an incorporated Committee •Committee working well and maintain the hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs comfortably through hall hire fees •Council pays Public liability •Committee have installed Solar Panels - no power costs •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Mitre Road, Nurcoun

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Nurcoun
- Providing gathering/meeting place for Nurcoun and surrounding district
- Place for keeping historical memorabilia and documents (safe installed)
- Accessible by car

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration plus supper room
- Serviceable kitchen and servery
- Outside amenities

Peronne Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •The only place that the community have where they can get together •Catering for private functions a few times per year •Regular CFA meeeting •Camping encouraged •Community emergency assembly point •Display of district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Good condition - roof recently replaced •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Good kitchen facilities but no hot water service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management •Ageing population of the committee a concern but eager to continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Rely on grants for major projects

Location:



Natimuk Frances Road, Peronne

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Peronne
- Hall services a community of approx. 20 people – a community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in good condition
- Out door areas
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery but no hot water service

Poolaijelo Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •used 10-12 times per year •Used by CFA for meetings and training •hired out for private functions •bi annual market •Home for the district memorabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Very good condition •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •requires some work on rear steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building on Crown land Reserve •Operated by a Crown Appointed Committee of Management / active soldiers memorial hall committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising, wood chops (sale of fire wood) and scrap metal skip supported by local community •Committee rely on grants for any major works

Location:



Casterton Naracoorte Road, Poolaijelo

Context:

- In a rural setting, no other infrastructure
- Community Hub
- Hall services the surrounding district of Poolaijelo of approx. 40 people and services to connect people including newcomers to the area
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Block construction in good condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage – newly renovated floors
- Serviceable kitchen
- Rear access needs repair work

Telopea Downs Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Hub •regular meeting for Progress association, Land care groups, CFA, and Chooks Chatter craft days •annual dinner dance •Catering for private functions •Control HQ during fire events •displays district memobabilia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Excellent condition - established 1974 •Maintained through efforts of committee and volunteers •Excellent kitchen facilities •accoustic friendly ceiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community building built on Crown Land Reserve •Operated by a Crown appointed committee of management and progress association committee - confusion around roles and responsibilities of various committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Committee is meeting costs through fund raising and hall hire fees •Dinner dance assist with a lot of the operating costs •Rely on grants for major projects •insurance costs are an issue

Location:



Edgerley Road, Telopea Downs

Context:

- In a rural setting , the only infrastructure in Telopea Downs (plus fire shed)
- Hall services a community of approx. 40 people – a community hub and important gathering space
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Cement sheet construction in good condition
- Out door areas
- Standard open hall configuration
- Serviceable kitchen and servery

Ullswater Hall - Facts at a glance

Social	Conditional	Organisational	Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Currently not used - power not connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Very poor condition•serious safety issues at back entrance (no steps and landing falling apart)•interior only partly lined - the rest is framework over corrugated iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•West WEimmera Shire Building on Shire land•There is a contact for an incorporated committee however are not currently active	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•not operating•power has been disconnected

Location:



Ullswater Mortat Road, Ullswater

Context:

- In a rural setting, no other infrastructure
- No community hub
- Reasonable access by car

Description

- Corrugated iron construction in poor condition
- Standard open hall configuration with stage
- Rear access hazard
- Serious conditional concerns

Appendix 2. Community Engagement session – Edenhope Hall Insight Night

Community Engagement Feedback:

Hall: Edenhope Hall

Insight Night

Date: 28th May 2014 Time: 7.00 pm

Location: Edenhope Business Centre

Attendee list:

	Name	Representing
1	John Robertson	Golf/Tennis/ Dancing/debutante balls
2	Emma Kealy	Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital
3	Glenda Forster	Traders
4	Sara McDonald	Bank/Races/playgroup and kindergarten
5	Rachael Lloyd	Land care / debutante ball
6	Nicki Fawell	Little Athletics / St Malachys
7	Stephen Lloyd	Students/youth/SES
8	Mal Hunting	RSL/ Ambulance Vic
9	Pam Young	Bowls / Senior Citizens
10	Wayne Caldow	Football club/Bendigo bank board
11	James Ackland	Bendigo Bank
12	Dale McIvor	Edenhope Police
13	Angela Kealy	St Malachys
14	Colin Kelly	Newly formed Arts group, new resident
15	Gayle Kelly	Newly formed Arts group, new resident
16	Mary Foster	Netball/football/EDMH
17	Geoff Langsworth	Historical Society
18	Alan Sambel	Historical Society (also section 86 member)
19	Julie West	Henley on lake Wallace Committee
20	Val Tischler	Edenhope College

Format

- Sena Solutions to give a brief rundown of the hall history
- Questions asked from participants in conversational style to tease out the feedback from people and the groups that they are involved with. Is there a consensus?
- Final (short and concise) comment from everyone relating to whole topic or any area which they feel needs to be voiced.
- Comment board – post it notes available for any comments that were missed or not addressed during the session or any comments that need reinforcement.

Preamble – history of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall:

The Council has asked for Strategic Review of Halls” in the West Wimmera Shire – there are 24 halls, varying owners and methods of management and a variety of conditions. Communities have changes in the past 20-30 years.

The primary aim of the Strategic Review of Halls is to inform Council on community expectations, aspirations and future service needs provided by halls in the short to medium term – 5- 10 years and beyond. The engagement with the community is a vital part of the hall review and will assist to inform Council with information, concerns and aspirations around the community halls. Sena Solutions has been engaged to deliver this review.

To date we have met will all operating hall committees within the West Wimmera Shire. We believe that the main towns in West Wimmera (Kaniva and Edenhope) needed a wider community engagement. Kaniva is operated by the shire and we have met with community members to obtain their feedback. We have met with the Edenhope hall committee and received their feedback, however believe that a wider community input, particularly with the current state of the hall was needed to give us the best information to the recommendations required for the review and to give council the best information for their decision making.

The Edenhope Mechanics Hall has been through a number of years of change and some turmoil.

In May 2004, following a low period where the then hall committee folded, Edenhope Progress Association formed a sub committee to manage the Edenhope Mechanics Hall. At that stage there was good support from community and the next five years saw improvements to the hall leading to where the hall is at today. This included:

- New kitchen.
- Heating and air conditioning
- Internal improvements
- Upgrade of all fire safety equipment.
- Disabled access ramp.
- Renovation/polish of main hall floor.

The hall usage increased over the three years following this work.

The hall is at a stage now that the integrity of the structure is of great concern. The hall committee identified this in 2010 and put a proposition to Council that the hall basically starts as a new project with a broader base as a multi purpose facility for the community. The Hall committee engaged with some community members and received some support for this.

The hall at this stage was under private ownership. The last remaining trustee was concerned as to the future of the hall if ownership did not transfer to local council. He believed that Council would be the best owner to ensure that it would be there for the future of the community.

The Council agreed to take over the ownership, not an easy task as the legal instruments in place to do this were quite obscure and bureaucratic. However this was finalised in 2012.

The transfer of ownership postponed any discussions regarding the future of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall.

After discussions with the Hall committee as to the best way forward, there was a section 86 committee formed as an instrument to manage the operation of the Edenhope Hall in 2013. A section 86 committee is an extension of council which has Terms of Reference which detail the requirements of the committee and its obligations.

To date this committee have not yet met and is still operating under the previously incorporated committee which is currently being wound up. The committee is frustrated and feel a lack of support from both Council and the Community and are reluctant to move forward with anything until their proposals have been considered.

Condition assessment has been sought by council in 2011 following a submission from the hall committee but was not acted on by Council due to the transfer of ownership. A revision of the Building condition assessment was re done and submitted to in January 2014.

The Building assessment report raised some major concerns with some immediate issues to ensure that the building is safe. This work has been carried out by Council. A second independent report has been sought and council is currently waiting on the final report – however the fact that major work needs to be undertaken and a substantial amount needs to be spent to restore the current building.

So here we are today to see what the wider community believe is the best plan for the Edenhope Hall:

Does the hall still suit the community needs, do we restore it? Do we rebuild it? Do we leave it as it is? Do we replace it with something that is more in line with the Edenhope community today and for the future? Or do we get rid of it altogether?

We have looked at all the halls in four contexts:

Conditional, Social, organisational and financial – and hope to get feed back which covers all these contexts from you tonight.

Feedback:

Conditional:

- Eyesore in the main street
- Building un-inviting
- Bad acoustics, difficult to set up
- Concern over western wall and stage area

Social

- Large space required on occasion
- Not meeting today's community needs

West Wimmera Shire
Strategic Review of Halls - CM0392

- Is not conducive in attracting use from groups such as youth, cultural groups
- Not being used as much as it used to due to condition
- Embarrassment if hosting groups

Organisational

- Shire should play a part in hall being a main town and a venue for larger functions
- Section 86 committee not functioning yet
- Concerns over current organisational arrangements – no longer hold the Old Time Dances at the hall because of this issue
- Community not connected with the hall – last consideration.

Financial

- Why is shire putting money into something that is old and tired and no longer fit for purpose? Why not rethink the hall and create something more suited to the community.

The Future

- Overwhelming desire for a new multi purpose community centre
- Moveable walls that can create a large space when required – fixed or moveable stage
- Edenhope needs a centre, a focus for the community
- A community centre will provide a home for different groups including youth who are currently not catered for.
- Activate the town, create a focus and activity centre
- Groups to be considered – art group, historical group, visitor information centre, library, youth, Department of Justice
- Hospital required meeting rooms and training area
- Possibility of space for adult education as they do in Kaniva
- Rationalise some of the other buildings in town – sell and include groups in centre (senior citizens, EBC)
- Think outside the square – include a deck to lake view as part of the venue – hired out for events/weddings
- Shared resources between groups, ensuring centre open, active and functional
- Community Gym??
- Community members happy to fundraise
- No more spend on old ugly building – plan for a new one

The overwhelming feedback from the insight meeting was that the current hall is no longer fit for purpose for the community.

The community feed back (as well as that from the Incorporated Hall Committee) was that the hall should be replaced with a new multi purpose building that can cater for both large and smaller functions and also provide meeting room/training space, a home for the arts and Tourism, the youth, seniors and perhaps the library. Moving the Library and maternal child health to a community centre would also free up space for Council who are struggling for room. Meeting rooms could also be used to hold court sessions (particularly of one room would have a side external entry/exit door). This area could also be used in a similar way that Link House in Kaniva runs its adult education courses. This would become a focus and a hub for Edenhope and rejuvenate the town centre and work to unite various factions of the community.

With modern architecture and moveable walls this could be accomplished.

The community would like to see some sort of rationalisation with the current buildings that are ageing and will need restoration/maintenance work in the future. The EBC would be better off being a retail/service space for local business. Sell buildings no longer required and put funding into the new centre.

Edenhope needs something to be proud of: Focus/activity/social interaction/shared resources.

Community would be keen to fundraise. Suggestions of “buy a brick” – name inscribed for prosperity or a “memorial wall” for those who have passed on from the community would assist. Funding from shared users (hospital, user groups) would assist and grants could be sought from other user group agencies such as the Justice Department, Wimmera Library Services, and grants around Youth, seniors and the Arts.

If council agree to support this option, organisation to be a joint venture between Council and a community steering group.

To the many volunteers who
keep the communities of
West Wimmera Shire vibrant,
to the Elected Members of
Council and to Council Staff
and other stakeholders who
have assisted us with this
review – thankyou so much
for giving us your time,
sharing your ideas and for
your valuable contributions.

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